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Southeast Asia Report

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7 December 1984

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BRIEFS

VIGILANCE AGAINST FIRE THREAT--Jakarta 5th Military Region Commander Major General Tri Sutrisno has stressed the need on the part of members of the public, especially high-rise building operators and owners, to be aware of the fire threat in an effort to cope with the threat as early as possible. He said that the recent rash of fires has surpassed other disasters in the Jakarta metropolitan region. For this reason, suitable firefighting equipment for high-rise buildings must also be supported by human ability and agility to ensure smooth operation when needed. Maj Gen Tri Sutrisno made these remarks when accompanying Army Chief of Staff General Rudini to watch the implementation of the armed forces' Manunggal 18 civic mission program at Cilandak today. [Text] [Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 1500 CMT 20 Nov 84 BK]

BORDER CROSSERS RETURN--About 150 border crossers hailing from the (Kini) village, Jayapura Regency, Irian Jaya, returned to their village last week after they had escaped from a border crosser accommodation camp in the Papua-New Guinea (PNG), which was partly controlled by remnants of the outlawed Free Papua Organization, or OPM. The regent of Jayapura, Bas Youwe, who is also a member of the Indonesian verification team, visited the returned border crossers at their village, accompanied by his health officers to give necessary medical aid to the families of border crossers. [Text] [Jakarta International Service in English 0800- MT 20 Nov 84 BK]

CSO: 4200/191

PRK'S HENG SAMRIN ON PARTY MEMBER RESPONSIBILITY

OW142408 Hanoi VNA in English 1621 GMT 14 Nov 84

[Text] Hanoi, VNA, 14 Nov--The successes obtained by the Kampuchean revolution are very great and significant, and they constitute an offense on the enemy, said Heng Samrin, general secretary of the people's revolutionary party of Kampuchea, last week.

In his closing speech at the national meeting of party cadres held in Phnom Penh from 2-9 November, the party leader highly praised efforts made by the party members in national defence and construction and said the revolution of the masses was developing vigorously, dynamically throughout the country and the reform demanded a high sense of responsibility of the party members at this new stage.

The four resolutions adopted by the meeting, he said, are greatly significant and will favourably influence the national economy and politics for the Kampuchean revolution's advance in socialist construction.

The primary task at present is to try by all means to build firm relationship in all fields, especially economic relation, between state and the peasantry namely to strengthen the worker-peasant alliance, which is the main pillar of the proletarian regime and the basis of the solidarity of the entire people. It is clear, the general secretary stressed, that economy is the foundation of politics, ideology and national defence. Without an economic alliance between the working class and the peasantry, production cannot increase and the defence system cannot be strong enough.

Now and in the future, we should try to meet the needs of the economy that is to supply society with enough goods, Heng Samrin says, this, he continued, is an objective factor for us to adopt a transitional economic form favourable for production by making use of the private economic sector to satisfy the needs of the people while incorporating this sector in state objectives.

On the policy regarding minorities it is the duty of the entire party to help and assist these groups to acquire prosperity. Above all, it is important to advance them educationally and culturally so that they may efficiently contribute to national defence and construction, and this is a just precept of every genuine revolution which the entire party should always put into practice, Heng Samrin stressed.

To achieve these objectives in this new stage of revolution, when the struggle between the Kampuchean people and their enemy, between revolution and counter-revolution, between socialism and capitalism is taking place in a very tense and complicated situation, the entire party, the entire people's army and the entire people should be united in ideology, uphold the revolutionary spirit for the steady development of the revolution, and motivate the whole population, under the leadership of the party, in realization that they are masters of the country with a great responsibility in national defence and construction, Heng Samrin pointed out.

CSO: 4200/177

SRV OFFICIALS ON CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS, MILITARY UNITS

Vientiane NOUM LAO in Lao 1-15 Jun 84 p 12

[Article by Bounthanong Somsaiphon: "One Kind of Sincere Mutual Assistance"]

[Excerpt] The second meeting to summarize the achievement of the three solidarities and four offensives of the Savannakhet Provincial Youth Union that was opened on 2 April was successfully and gloriously closed on 5 April 1984. The Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union delegation from Binh Tri Thien Province, Comrade Mai Xuan Thu, Assistant secretary of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Executive Committee of the Youth Union of Binh Tri Thien Province who was the Battalion 384 chief, and Comrade Le Dinh Phue, chief of the [Vietnamese Volunteer Unit 968], were invited to participate. The NOUM LAO operations unit tried to use the free time during the meeting to interview the delegation. Part of the interview follows.

NOUM LAO: Our party leader has often mentioned that Lao-Vietnamese solidarity is one of the most brilliant in proletarian internationalism. To give some facts regarding this I would like to ask Comrade Le Dinh Phue, secretary of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union Executive Committee, Division 384, what he thinks about this.

[Answer] Division 384 constructs bridges and roads, and defends Route 9. It built a road 12 km long from Route 9 to the gypsum mine, and a road 44 km long from the border of Tha Ong. Our division has been carrying out international duty in Savannakhet for the past 6 years. During these 6 years we decided to go through obstacles and difficulties, and it is also the period we were sincerely and unforgettably assisted by the party committee, the administrative committee, and also the youth union members and the Lao people in Savannakhet Province. We built 17 large bridges and successfully paved asphalt from the border to [Tha Khong]. Now our division youth union members are working on building a road from Route 9 to the gypsum mine. If we were to calculate the value of what we have done it would be close to 700 million dong.

At the end of 1984 we should complete the plan 1 month sooner than expected and we will organize a ceremony to hand over the various constructions to Savannakhet Province. Speaking of the love, solidarity, and mutual assistance between Division 384 and the party, the administrative

committee, LPDR organizations, and the people in Savannakhet Province. We worked attentively and systematically for 6 months. We opened a meeting to assess the value and to summarize our strong and weak points concerning this relationship. We also invited the sections concerned to participate. We befriended the youth union members in each [general battalion] and the youth union members of canton levels where we set up our army. For example, General Battalion 509 and Keng Kok Canton, General Battalion 6 and Keng Luang Canton, General Battalion 99 and North Sepon Canton, [the battalion office] and Chakifin Canton. We constructed two class for Champhon District Youth Union members. These are part of the tasks our division has done and is carrying out.

NOEM LAO: According to what you [Comrade Mai Xuan Thu] told us, this was the first visit of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union members of Binh Tri Thien Province. On this visit your delegation met with and had friendly discussions with the LPRYU Executive Committee in Savannakhet Province. You assessed this meeting as an opening for [the exchange of friendship] and mutual assistance in every aspect as the two provincial party committees agreed in the second congress of the Savannakhet Provincial Party Committee. Please give your views on this.

[Answer]: Our meeting was arranged on the evening of 6 April 1984. It was significant in opening doors for close and regular relations and all-around mutual assistance between our two provincial youth unions.

The meeting covered the exchange of delegations each year in order to exchange situations and experiences. Moreover, there will be training for youth union cadres, assistance in economic base construction, cooperation in building up the youth union, and artistic, cultural, sports, and gymnastics lessons exchanges for the youth union. All of these problems we talked about we still have to propose to the party committee. However, we believe that they are possible because our two parties and two provinces have become close friends and have already been working in sincere cooperation with each other in every way.

Recently the party committee and the Savannakhet Provincial LPRYU committee told us that the Chinese and Thai reactionaries have slandered and propagandized that our two provinces and youth unions have agreed to all-around cooperation in order to invade Thailand. The fact is that our cooperation is to protect our nations' interests and to help each other in developing our nations. The voice of propaganda is no different than a dog barking at an elephant.

9884

CSO: 4206/23

FURTHER DETAILS ON THAI OCCUPATION OF PAKLAI

Vientiane PASASON in Lao 16 Oct 84 p 2

[Article by Ph Sinpaseut: "A Part of the Truth about the Three Villages"]

[Text] It was a good opportunity for the Lao Reporters Association and the Information Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to facilitate those whose work involves news in various embassies of the 18 nations in Vientiane along with many [representatives of the mass media] from both at home and abroad in Paklai District, Sayaboury Province, the point of interest to the Lao people and the world. Even though only news personnel from the embassies were invited, in some embassies the ambassadors went to see the facts for themselves.

On 7 October 1984 Paklai District was particularly active. The happy smiles of the comrade district party secretary and the district administrative chairman on down to the laughter of children who [welcomed] the visitors all showed the happiness of the Paklai District people who always extend their hands to give a sincere welcome to visitors from every corner of the district and the world. There are also representatives of the people in Ban Mai, Ban Kang, and Ban Savang, who properly condemned the robbery of the Thai troops under the command of [Gen] Athit Kamlang-ek who himself is under the command of the Beijing expansionists and hegemonists.

When all the diplomats and reporters had arrived in Paklai District, questions expressing worry and concern flew uninterruptedly to the comrade district party secretary, the comrade district administrative committee chairman, and those comrades who maintain peace in our district. All questions were answered clearly. The more questions they asked the more enthusiastic the answers were. For example, when someone asked how many kilometers it was to the three villages, the answer was 30 km by air or approximately 50 km by land.

Question: What were the activities of the occupying Thai troops a few days ago?

Answer: While the Thai government has announced the withdrawal of its forces, they have not been withdrawn. Things are still continuing the way they were. They have their troops as before, and they have

even added two battalions and artillery which now total six battalions. There are approximately 2,500 Thai soldiers in the three Lao villages, and they are subordinate to the first cavalry division.

Question: A few days ago were the Thai troops still firing their artillery at the area near the three villages?

Answer: They fired 105 and 155 mm artillery continuously and also used their spyplanes to fly over the Paklai District area. They also greatly increased their firing.

Question: Did we seize any weapons of the Thai troops?

Answer: We seized many weapons, and we will take you to view them.

Question: Are there any people from the three villages here?

Answer: Yes, there are.

Question: How many people are there in the three villages?

Answer: About 1,200.

Question: How do the Thai troops live?

Answer: They live in a big trench they dug up.

Question: Since 6 June have they changed any troops?

Answer: They have, many of them. Because they become demoralized, they change once a week.

Question: What are the Thai troops afraid of or worried about?

Answer: There was a total of nine companies of Thahan Pran Irregulars. Three of them fled the army. They did not want to be on duty because of their fear and they claimed that "the Thai government had already announced its withdrawal, and why did they not withdraw?" These troops all fled and left their army and returned to their own homes. In each of the nine companies 10, 20, or 30 soldiers fled to their homes. Those who are in the camp at the three Lao villages write to the regional forces in Paklai District saying, "Please do not fire at us while we are here. You can fire after we change our duty here..."

Question: What happened to those who fled the army?

Answer: After those Thai soldiers returned home they were chased after to be arrested. Some of them fled to ask for asylum in Lao territory, e.g., in Phe and Na Kha (Bo Then District) and Pha Keo (Paklai District).

Question: What is the situation of the people in this district?

Answer: Twenty-one thousand people work hard on transportation; 13,000 are building roads. In the transportation work not only the Paklai District people but the people in other provinces throughout the country want to come [for this task].

This was the friendly conversation between the visitors and the inhabitants of Paklai District and the three villages on the way from the parking lot to a guest house in Paklai District, and from the guest house where the district administrative committee officially explained things clearly to the visitors to the district administrative office that has the war equipment and other evidence and further to the meeting hall where people who fled the three villages are staying temporarily. The people there consisted of those who have been there for some time and those who have just come. This has caused the domestic and foreign guests to pay close attention to every work, all the evidence, and everything in front of their eyes and the caravans of elephants, carts, and cattle that were transported to the three-village area. Caravans from the whole country have volunteered to go to the three villages, not to create a warlike atmosphere, but to demonstrate the unity of the Lao people of the whole country in order to maintain our Lao identity, Lao blood, and to forever defend our sanctuary.

9884

CSO: 4206/20

PRODUCTION TARGETS, FLOODING IN SAVANNAKHET REPORTED

Vientiane PASASON in Lao 11 Oct 84 p 2

[Article: "Pushing for Victory"]

[Excerpt] Savannakhet Province is a province of immense size. It has a production area of more than 80,000 hectares which is considered to be a very fertile area of rice and forests for the LPDR.

With the spirit of struggle [Savannakhet Province] is carrying out the fifth resolution of the third session of the party central committee to push food production throughout the country to 1.4 million tons for 1984. This includes reserves of rice and vegetables. In the production season this year, the people and farmers of Savannakhet Province transplanted more than 83,340 hectares and transformed this into green rice and plants as far as the eye could see.

Unfortunately, in the middle of August the rains, which bring both good and bad, came in torrents and caused the fields of some of the people and farmers of Savannakhet Province to flood. There was damage. But in situations like this the farmers of these areas are not discouraged. On the contrary, the people and farmers of the flooded areas--Khanthabouli District, Champhon District, Songkhon District, Outhoumphon District, Atsaphangthong District and Phin District--were even braver in pressing on with production and replanting. Especially in Champhon District and Songkhon District, many rice fields were damaged amounting to 12,205 hectares. Of this more than 10,000 hectares were in Champhon and 2,205 were in Songkhon. After the land dried out they set about replanting in an urgent drive under the leadership of the party committee, the district administrative committee and various levels of the administration including cadres and specialists who were closely involved in the replanting procedures of the people and farmers in Champhon District, Songkhon District and other districts mentioned. In addition to soaking and planting seed and transplanting in the usual way, they also did some broadcast seeding in order to be sure it would be ready with the season. The initial figures on the replanting are: Champhon District completed replanting and used 29,852 kg [of seed]; Songkhon District has used more than 30,000 kg; Khanthabouli District has used 1,630 kg; Outhoumphon District has used 1,610 kg and Atsaphangthong District has used 5,600 kg.

In addition to replanting to meet the demand for food adequately and maintain a normal and gradually improving standard of living, the farmers in the flooded areas struggled to plant various starchy crops in a widespread drive. Outhoumphon District and Phin District planted 286 hectares of maize, manioc, sweet potato, 187 hectares of taro, 25 hectares of peanuts, 15 hectares of mung beans, sugarcane, castor beans, 18 hectares of cotton and more than 10 hectares of various vegetables.

The replanting of the rice and the planting of various starchy crops by the people and farmers of localities which had been flooded in Savannakhet Province, in addition to raising the spirit of responsibility for protecting and building the nation, was also a push to replace and reduce the losses in seasonal production [in keeping] with the spirit of the fifth and sixth resolutions issued by the third session of the party central committee.

8149

CSO: 4206/21

EFFORTS TO CONTROL PRIVATE SECTOR INDUSTRY DETAILED

Vientiane PASASON in Lao 11 Oct 84 p 2

[Article: "An Interview with Comrade Chandeng Keopaseut"]

[Excerpt] The Department to Transform Light Industry was established at the end of 1982 and is one of 14 staff departments affiliated with the Ministry of Industry, Handicrafts and Forestry. Its function is research on the methods and rules for transforming the small, private industrial and handicraft branches to conform with socialist direction and production policy by relying on the policy direction and policies of the party and state. In addition, it also functions to follow, control and encourage localities in establishing new production to supplement their private industrial and handicraft production with communal work, cooperatives or two-way obligations with the state. At the same time, working with the localities, it also encourages and promotes the expansion of these branches of production in order to steadily improve the standard of living of the multiethnic people.

1. Activities in the first six months of the year:

In the first 6 months of 1984 we worked in many localities to maintain the condition and strength of the localities in local handicrafts and made proposals for experiments. In addition in the City of Vientiane we worked with a division involved in inspecting private production places in order to improve the administration. Another activity which we were involved in was collecting statistics on private light industry and handicrafts and urging on [those targeted by] the drive to register private enterprise in the seven districts of the City of Vientiane.

The result of this activity was that 480 branches of private industry and handicrafts came and requested to register their enterprise. Of these most, 243, were rice mills. There were 4 saw mills, 18 kung mills, 27 wood planing mills, 30 shops making ice, 16 shops making vermicelli, 10 shops making rice noodles, 28 distilleries, 7 shops making fish sauce, 32 shops making charcoal and in addition to this there are still a number who have not come in and requested to register their enterprise. We will follow up and urge them to again.

2. Work to be done to honor the two historic days.

To honor the two historic days, the 30th anniversary of the founding of the party and the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the LPDR in 1985 we will work to urge the localities to increase their effort to transform their private light industry and handicrafts and create a new private industry in harmony with the direction and policy of the party and state and to research the various methods and rules for becoming a bonding [center] and assisting people to set up production and get started, advising those in production on expanding their market for goods and handicrafts, urging them to carry out their obligations to the state according to the law, following up and urging on [those targeted by] the drive to register enterprises and searching for appropriate methods and standards for dealing with those who break the law.

8149

CSO: 4206/21

EDITOR'S COLUMN EXCORIATES THAI LEADERSHIP

Vientiane VIENTIANE MAI in Lao 10 Oct 84 pp 2, 4

[Editorial: "What the Thai Ruling Class Intends for Lao-Thai Relations!"]

[Text] I read the white paper which the Lao Foreign Ministry issued concerning Thai-Lao relations carefully. When I finished reading, I understood the accounts they have given about the true reactionary, aggressive nature of the Thai ruling class since the sixteenth century. Since they are like this, how can the Thai ruling class have good [intentions] for Lao-Thai relations? How should the Lao-Thai people punish them?

From Mr Somchan, Ban Dongnasok, Vientiane.

We read the white paper which the Lao Foreign Ministry issued and so we know in detail about the aggressive and repulsive nature of the Thai ruling class.

When one considers the history of the Thai ruling class, one sees that they are big criminals. They are dangerous to the rights and interests of the Lao people and even the Thai people. They are a bunch of slaves without a master. Everything is acceptable as long as it is to their advantage. They would be willing to bow their heads and become lackeys without shame. They are not intelligent people, and they do not know much. They are hooligans who at best only know how to save themselves. What has happened in the past, I feel, is as follows: when the English came, they asked to be slaves to the English, when the French came, they went along with the French, when the Japanese came, they followed Japanese leadership, when the Americans came, they quickly announced that they had been transformed into their lackeys, and when the Chinese came, they hurried to follow the Chinese.

This is how the Thai are. Until now everything has been done purely at the orders of the imperialists and reactionaries, the international imperialists and reactionaries whichever one wants to seize and use Thailand, because the Thai ruling class wants to be enslaved. They cannot do anything on their own.

In bowing their heads and presenting themselves as hunting dogs for other nations, the Thai ruling class had to give up the freedom of the Thai people and let the foreign enemies do what they wanted on Thai soil. The difficulties of the Thai people today, the collapse and stench of Thai society, is [caused by] the selling of the nation and the selling of the people by the Thai ruling class itself.

Each time that Thailand has let itself be the slave, the hunting dog, of other nations, it has had to allow the destruction of the excellent relations since antiquity between the Thai people and the nations around Thailand. They closed themselves off from other nations and destroyed the neighborly relations between the Thai people and the people of the countries around Thailand. It has meant the cruel inhuman destruction of Thai-Lao relations.

We believe firmly that sooner or later the Thai people and the Lao people together with the people of the other countries around Thailand will without doubt have to punish the Thai ruling class. The fate of the reactionary Thai ruling class will be settled in heaven. They will not escape a painful end.

Goodbye.

8149

CSO: 4206/21

ELECTRIC FUSES NOW PRODUCED LOCALLY

Vientiane VIENTIANE MAI in Lao 16 Oct 84 p 2

["Our Capital" Column by P Sai Nam Ngum: "Laos Is Now Able to Produce Fuses on Its Own"]

[Text] Laos is now able to produce electric fuses on its own. Comrade Vang Ngeun, chief of the Lao Collective Electric Fuse [production unit] proudly and happily told VIENTIANE MAI. This collective electric fuse production unit is the first unit of its kind, and now it exists in the beautiful land of the LPDR. It demonstrates the creativity and the research of our Lao people nowadays under the clearsighted leadership of the party and government that attentively guides all classes of people in Laos to steadily and endlessly advance themselves to a [higher] cultural, scientific, and technological level.

The office of this first collective electric fuse production unit is located in Ban Wat Chan Thong, Chanthaboury District, Vientiane Capital. Comrade Vang Ngeun is a technical chief and the chief of this unit.

This unit was officially set up on 29 June 1984. It consists of over only 10 technicians and workers and some production equipment. It has started experimental production. Their fuser production is doing well now as expected, and even though it is still small and limited it is certain that it will expand and grow in the future.

The production of this unit is distributed directly to the Vientiane Trade Section, involving 15 sizes in all. According to the contract, as soon as this unit is able to operate it will send its products to the Vientiane Trade Section for distribution until November or December 1984. They must be able to produce 10,000 [reels], each 45 grams and 380 volts on down depending on the 15 sizes in all, that is, each size has the same quality as the ones [for export] and each is made of raw materials within our country.

By 27 September 1984 they were able to produce 8,000 [reels] of electric fuses, and we can see that they will exceed the expected figures.

The products have already been set ou in state stores, and there are more and more people using them. However, many people still do not know that these products are the workmanship of Lao people and that they are produced in our country.

LAO PARTICIPATE IN NONG KHAI BOAT RACES

General Atmosphere

Vientiane PASASON in Lao 16 Oct 84 p 2

[Article by S Phanthavong: "For Good Relations Between People on Both Sides of the River"]

[Text] Although relations and the atmosphere along the Thai-Lao border are tense because of the encroachment on and the occupation of the three Lac villages by the Thai ultrarightist reactionaries, in response to the invitation of the Nong Khai provincial administrative committee the Vientiane boat racing committee led by Mr Bounleut Soulignavong, secretary of the Hatsaifong District Party Committee, brought three racing boats to join the races for the cause of friendship and good relations with the Thai people, especially the people on both sides of the Mekong River who want peace and friendship along the border.

On the gate of the customs checkpoint on the Nong Khai side there was a sign written, "Welcome to the Lao boat-racing delegation." We exchanged greetings with the Thai people when we reached the top of the river bank and joined in the solidarity rice platter with the Thai people in Nong Khai Province. This showed that the people in Vientiane and Nong Khai and also the Lao and Thai peoples are devoted to building fraternal relations. Both sides are related in terms of culture, language, and customs which are very close. This boat racing festival is similar to the boat racing festival in Laos. We and especially those who live on both sides of the Mekong River organize the festival every year at the end of the Buddhist Lent according to our national customs.

The atmosphere of the Vientiane-Nong Khai friendship boat racing for Thai people was one where everyone got involved in discussions. Some said the Lao boats were short and could not take a lot of rowers because none of the Lao boats had more than 50 rowers. Another thing was that the Vientiane rowers used to enter only 203 km races and the distance in Nong Khai was 6 km, and so the Lao probably would not be able to hold out that long. They talked about many things. The Vientiane boats entered the race only one time, which was the preliminary trial. We

did not enter the semifinals and the finals. Even though we entered only one round, it was not to fight for the sake of victory but for the spirit of solidarity and friendship in order to create an atmosphere so the Mekong River could become an area of peace without any blemish that might occur by either side.

Of course, even though it is a race for friendship and good relations between the people of both river banks, when the players enter a race they want to win. The same goes for the spirit of each Lao rower. A race is either won or lost. There were four sets of preliminary competition. Because we had only three boats we entered only three sets, the second and the fourth. However, the preliminary race results were that the Lao boats got first and third place. This showed that the Lao rowers were pretty strong.

The significance of the Vientiane-Nong Khai boat races was not which one came in first in the race, but the inseparable spirit of the people on the Lao and Thai river banks, even though the Thai ultrarightist reactionaries will do everything possible to destroy this relation. While viewing the boat races one Thai asked me to "please send my regards to the Lao people." When I asked him how he felt about Lao-Thai relations nowadays, he said, "Even though there is a problem in Lao-Thai relations, the people on both sides of the river greatly miss each other. We are related by having the same religion and language. How can we be separate from each other!" While these were the words of only one person, I think they are the words of the sensible and fraternal Thai in general.

VIENTIANE MAI Report

Vientiane VIENTIANE MAI in Lao 12 Oct 84 pp 1, 4

[Article: "Lao Boats from Nasaifong District Beat Nong Khai Boats"]

[Text] In order to show the good intentions consistently of the LPDR in promoting good relations between the Lao and Thai peoples according to the implementation of the 1979 joint agreement, on 10 October 1984, in response to the invitation of the governor of Nong Khai Province, Thailand, the administrative committee of Vientiane Capital sent a boat racing team with three boats to participate in the friendship boat racing on the occasion of the festival at the end of the 1984 Buddhist Lent in Nong Khai Province.

Mr Bounleut Soulignavong, acting chairman of the Nasaifong District administrative committee, [went] along with over 260 rowers. The boats that participate in the race were from Ban Tha Deua, Ban Thin Tom, and Ban Tha Pha.

The Lao boat from Ban Tha Pha was entered in the first [round] in which there was a total of six boats from Nong Khat Province, bringing the total to seven boats. The result was that the Ban Tha Pha boat came in third. In the second [round] the Ban Tha Deua boat came in first and Nong Khai boats came in second and third, respectively. In this [round] there was a total of six boats, including from Laos. In the third round the Ban Thin Tom boat came in second. There were six boats altogether in this [round].

While the boat races between the Lao people of Vientiane Province and the Thai people of Nong Khai Province were carried out with a happy atmosphere and showed the spirit of love and solidarity for each other, and the people can go back and forth to see each other on a friendly basis between the two countries, it is regrettable that the Thai ultrarightist reactionaries who follow the path of Thai Gnai, the teachings of the Beijing expansionists and hegemonists and the power of the American imperialists and other reactionaries, have stubbornly sent their troops to encroach upon and occupy the three Lao villages of Ban Mai, Ban Kang, and Ban Savang in Paklai District, Sayaboury Province. This is shameless destruction of the fraternal and neighborly relations between Laos and Thailand, and it is against the joint Lao-Thai announcement signed in 1979. Recently, they announced that they would withdraw their troops from the three Lao villages. However, the fact was that not only did they not withdraw their troops, but instead they increased the military forces in these three villages. This intentionally destroys the relationship between the Lao and Thai peoples in order to follow the dark and insane schemes of the plan to serve the expansionists.

9884

CSO: 4206/20

SAVINGS LOTTERY SALES, PRIZES NOTED

Vientiane PASASON in Lao 10 Oct 84 pp 1, 3

[Article: "Vientiane Provincial Masses Emulate Each Other to Buy Savings Lottery"]

[Text] There is news from Vientiane that now the cadres, government employees, military, and police along with all the people are emulating each other to deposit their savings. In particular, it is the savings lottery that interests them. In the past 3 months they bought 4,589 savings lottery tickets worth 458,900 kip. Most outstanding was Keo Oudom District where 2,734 tickets were purchased; 540 tickets were purchased in Phon Hong District, 1,030 were purchased by youth and provincial bank cadres, and 285 tickets were purchased by Thoulakhom and Vang Vieng Districts. This distribution of the savings lottery in this locality was only the beginning. It has now been expanded into other districts throughout.

Depositing money by the savings lottery is good for the buyers. That is, the buyer has a chance to win prizes of as much as 300,000 kip every 3 months. In particular, at the end of each year they have a chance to win the grand or first prize worth 90,000 kip in cash; there are five second prizes worth 20,000 kip cash; 10 third prizes worth 5,000 kip cash; 110 fourth prizes worth 500 kip cash, and 2 complimentary prizes worth 2,500 kip cash. No matter whether a buyer wins a prize or not, the principal remains the same. Whenever he has a need to get his money back he just brings the lottery ticket back to the bank and he will get his 100-kip banknotes back. This is like saving for himself. Another thing is that those who have already won prizes still have the right to win prizes again and again, and they might be lucky enough to win again.

Besides being good for individuals as we have already mentioned, buying savings lottery tickets is also good for the country and the whole. It means taking part in saving capital for the government so that it will have a large source of capital for national construction and development. It is a lever in promoting rapid expansion of production and the national economy. It is also a way to help the government gather cash in the center in the bank. This will result in a balance between goods and currency and a stabilized currency which will raise the standard of living of the people of ethnic groups step by step.

THAILAND ACCUSED OF EXPLOITING REFUGEES

Vientiane NOUM LAO in Lao 1-15 May; 15-30 Jun 84

[Article by Piam Choulamonti: "They...Exploited Us"]

[1-15 May 84 pp 9, 10]

[Excerpt] Son has dark skin, natural curl hair, and he is well-proportioned. He has the appearance of a hardworking man. He is exactly 30 years old, nontalkative, but studious of all kinds of work. He is also quite creative in raising chickens. He has become very crucial in the production unit.

I had a chance to talk to him so many times that he feels comfortable in calling me "brother," and his children and wife automatically call me "uncle." One day he told me about his life and how difficult it was when he led his family to flee Laos in 1976. I tried to remember and understand his life which had all the elements of a movie in a theater. It was a story of excitement, sorrow, sympathy, and a happy ending.

It is true that after Laos was newly liberated there were people who were blind under the old regime. They were frightened and so they fled their hometown in order to search for heaven no matter what, and the path they walked on was no different from blind people feeling an elephant. Son's family was among them. He was very angry at himself after he took his family, his beloved wife and one child, left his house, rice-field and garden, and crossed over to Nong Khai where the Thai authorities sent his family to stay in a refugee camp with all the Lao who were misled and who had fled to the Thai border. They thought that land would give them security, freedom, and a comfortable life.

However, their expectations were reversed. Their hardship was doubled. They faced troubles everywhere. The happiness they had dreamed of and the freedom they had once longed for all disappeared when Thai reactionaries wearing sunglasses followed their every movement. Their daily lives became steadily darker. Each struggled and was willing to become a laboring slave for the aliens to mercilessly exploit them. Their human dignity was trampled on. However, everyone had to put up with it. They forced themselves to swallow the bitter hatred and to hide their feelings deep inside their hearts, and they looked for a chance to return to die in Laos, the land of their birth.

Son and many of his friends went to work gardening and received 8 baht a day. They walked downcast back to the refugee camp. He heard a conversation of his friends while they were walking beyond the plantation of an exploitative capitalist. "He is very heartless. Instead of giving wages of exactly 8 baht he subtracts 2 baht for a meal. Every meal, all I have is salted mackerel. He subtracts another 50 satang for drinking water. Five baht and 50 satang is left for food for my wife and children. While thinking about this I felt sorry for us that we had to suffer like this!"

"We wanted a paradise for human beings, but what we got is a [paradise for our friends' duck pots]." The same person continued sarcastically and regretfully about his life, "Because I was credulous I am now facing problems and starvation. It has become impossible to bear. That could be the reason why more and more of us in the camp are risking their lives under the bullets of the Thai soldiers to swim across the river and return home. Once they get there all those Lao are given a good welcome. There is a beautiful baci ceremony to restore their spirits."

"Where did you hear about this?"

"On the radio, and the people in the camp were all talking about it!" We had to be [careful]. The Thai authorities had absolutely forbidden anyone from turning on Lao news. In the meantime, they propagandized and slandered Laos, saying that nothing at all is good about us. In this way they used psychology to frighten us and [to make us] willing to be their slaves [forever]. If things were the same as what they said, I would think that the Lao people over there must all have been killed. "There is news that those who flee across to Laos will all be killed if they are captured." The man spoke with hatred because of the Thai authorities' constant irritation.

"Do not believe them. Now the party and government ask all Lao in foreign countries to return in order to participate in constructing our own nation. According to what we know, those who love to work are honored most in Laos. They are not insulted as they were before. Working for our country is better than being beaten up as a slave, isn't it?"

"I see! No wonder every day those who had no family obligations in the camp would sneak out and swim across the river to return home. It could be that is why the Thai reactionary authorities are more strict with us, why they follow us wherever we go and why they arrest many suspects for investigation. If they treat us like this I cannot stay!"

After Son heard the conversation of the two people who shared the same destiny he thought about it constantly. He was so angry at himself that he could not explain it. He had been so credulous that he brought his family to the wrong path. At the same time he realized there was no place that would give him as much security and happiness as his fatherland. It was his own fault that his family had suffered this much.

He reached his place which was a tiny house with a tin roof and a wooden floor covered with two mats and walls made of bamboo. Firewood used for cooking was scattered in front of the tiny hut. It was untidy and noisy because of arguing and radios [blaring]. Mental [despondency] and selfishness had become chronic in the camp. He looked for his son with tired eyes, but he could not find him. Sweat appeared all over his body and on his face and ran down both sides of his cheeks. He untied the cloth used for tying his machete around his waist, spread it out and dried his face and both arms, and then he sighed with weariness.

He saw his wife Keutmi holding his son walking toward him with a frightened expression on her face. She said, "Today Ae had a very high fever. He had convulsions and I took him to have him checked in the hospital near the camp. They charged me 100 baht, but I had only 20. They did not like it. They frowned and were so sarcastic that I could no longer listen to them. As I was leaving they said that next time if I did not have any money with me not to go back for any treatment with them again. I did not know what to do besides pleading to pay the remaining 80 baht later."

"What did they say?" he asked his wife quickly. His ears rang and his eyes blurred. He gave a big sigh and bit his tongue unhappily. Human beings in hardship and starvation are not treated with mercy and justice by those who worship money as their god.

Keutmi was an indiscrete talker herself. Failing to notice the expression on her husband's face she said, "They frowned at me, and they looked at me as though I was not a human being, and they said right to my face that I should earn some money to repay them quickly if I did not want the matter to reach the police. Oh, I do not know what to do! Wherever I look it is all dark. The hospital is not a hospital but a human slaughter house. Whoever has money gets good treatment from them, but if you are poor they spit at you. I cannot bear to live in an evil place like this. Is there any way we can go back to our home? Whatever happens, I only ask to get away from this misery."

Son looked at his wife's face with great sympathy. He was responsible for all the mistakes this time. Since they had been married it was the first time he had led his family into troubles and fright like this. They were struggling and had almost fallen into the pit of hell, although they were still alive. It was the same as those who were about to drown and who struggled at the last minute to save themselves from drowning. It was true that living in this camp there was no trace of mercy or of helping each other, [the reason that we were to spend our lives together in the world]. Everyone was trying to save themselves. They all were out just for themselves. It was a land of no mercy, full of exploitation of human beings. Living this way is no different from the life of animals. They pitifully fight for a living.

"I cannot say anything yet," he said as a person who was thinking very hard. "If we had stayed in our country we would have suffered this much. We had our house, and who knows if it was all seized by the government?" Keutmi complained of the hardship while patting her hands on tiny Ae who was sleeping on her lap.

"You still misunderstand," her husband answered quickly and added, "The reactionaries and the imperialists often create a situation so that people will misunderstand and blindly support them and become tools for them all their lives. Because we believed in them we are now suffering. In actual life what security and sympathy have they given us? Time passes by with no purpose, and nothing has come true. They give us just enough food to stay alive, but we have to work hard and the wages are cheap."

He stopped talking for a moment as he turned his face toward the sounds of an argument nearby. When he knew it was about something that he had heard all along, he said in a normal voice, "These arguments come from the hardship that occurs continuously in this camp. Society in general is full of dirt. In our country, based on what I know, ugly society like this has been destroyed quite a lot already in order to make all society fresh and clean. Another truth is that the people's land was not seized at all unless it was the land of the reactionary noblemen who were against the revolution and who then fled. Their land actually belonged to the nation as a whole but they used their power to scoop up the national interests for themselves. Now all of this land is in the hands of the working people, the people who engage in production so that our nation will be politically and socioeconomically independent, and [the people] will be thier own master."

"How do you know our land was not seized," his wife asked with hope.

"Nong Khai and Vientiane are no opposite sides of the Mekong River. News about the truth cannot be kept secret. You probably heard with your own ears and ~~and~~ with your own eyes that a small number of people in this camp want to live like slaves serving the aliens because they receive benefits and rewards from them. Also, there are those who are lazy and fat, who depend on others, and are selfish!"

"Does it mean that all of the stupid and credulous like ourselves want to return home?"

"Of course!" he answered confidently. "Based on what I know, in Laos now the people have the right to be the master. They no longer kneel to the noblemen with the palms of their hands together like they did before. I also know that our house, ricefield, and garden are being taken care of by Uncle Phadi. He grows vegetables and sweet potatoes and has dug a fish pond. He is now planting papaya plants around the fish pond," Son told his wife of the facts from home.

"Last week Don, who was in Ban Tai, slipped out from Nong Khai to cross the river to our village. All his family is happy that he returned to his hometown alive. The local administrative committee and everyone in our village gave him a warm welcome. He himself cried tears of happiness while the villagers were tying string around their wrists to wish him luck.

He told everyone in the village about everything within the Nong Khai refugee camp. He said in the letter, "concerning both of you and your child, everyone in your family is concerned about you. They did not dream that you would face such hardship. After mother heard him tell the story she wiped her tears of regret and said that if you had not fled you would not suffer and would not be exploited for labor this bad. She was worried about you and your child.

"As for your garden, now the produce is bearing fruit satisfactorily. The [fish] in the pond are increasing in number. We wish you both to come and see it with your own eyes, then you will know for certain that there is no land anywhere else in the world that will bring happiness and abundance as Laos! You should both try to escape from that hell and return to our homeland. With this letter we are sending you some documents for you to study so that you will understand clearly the situation and the facts in our country. We, your parents, brothers and sisters over here are longing every moment to see your return."

While he was sitting and thinking about the letter Keutmi put the child in bed. She walked out and talked with the facial expression of a person how has almost lost hope. "Living in hardship like this is hard to endure any longer. Whatever happens you should look for a way to return to our country."

Son looked at his child who was sleeping with fever, with a sense of responsibility. At this time both his wife and child did not know that his heart was just about to explode into pieces. He hardly slept. He tried to find ways to take his family home by avoiding the least risk from the Thai reactionaries. He could not tell his wife about this yet except to pick the wages from his shirt pocket and hand it to his wife and tell her softly, "The heartless employer subtracted 50 satang for drinking water. I skipped lunch so I could save for our child's dinner because we cannot find rice to soak in time before cooking. Whatever happens we should try to bear it. As for the hospital expense, we can solve that later. Right now I cannot say anything yet. Hardship like this happens to all Lao who came to live in this hellish camp. We have almost run out of blood for them to suck." While he was talking he clenched his teeth with hatred and was angry at his own mistaken decision.

While Keutmi noticed all of her husband's actions, she could not help him bear his worry except to express sympathy to him and try to do her best as his wife. She accepted that he was doing his duty as a husband in taking care of his family very well, but the society was full of exploitation. This made him struggle so much that he was getting thin. It was pitiful.

"Now you do not have any rest. You should try to rest to save your strength. All this month I have not seen you rest at all. Does the farm owner have a rule not to let a laborer have his work?"

"Whenever we leave our work he cuts 2 days' wages because he wants the farming to be finished quickly. He sees other people's suffering as his own happiness. Anyway, since we are alive we have to continue to fight it!" He talked with hatred and bitterness in his heart, and looked at his wife sadly because of self-pity. "I have taken you the wrong way. I have to accept my own destiny which I created. I will be responsible for everything. The doors of hope for others to help me are all closed. The noblemen only flattered and tried to exploit us. Even though our family faces poverty I will do everything to avoid having my wife and child starve to death."

At that time a soft wind blew gently, but it was only able to blow dry heat into the small row houses which were built one next to another. This made the refugee camp even more humid. Keutmi dared not raise her head and look directly at her beloved husband. She missed her homeland and longed to return, and even though it was on the other side of the river she now thought that she was far away on the opposite side of the world. Whenever she thought about this she felt so sad. No one could give her any answer except her beloved husband. He had not given her any hope yet. Because she could not bear it any longer she said with uncertainty, "Do you think about returning home at all?"

He looked at his beloved wife with understanding, for he had heard this question many times before. In fact, he wanted to reveal his feelings from the depths of his heart to her.

"I cannot say anything yet. I will let you know later," he spoke in a puzzle. Just as he thought would happen, he noticed his beloved wife's face full of sorrow and disappointment at his words. He knew and understood the situation.

"Keutmi," he called his wife softly and then sighed, and turned his face to the north where his hometown was. He decided to say firmly that, "No one wants to live in this hellish place. No matter who came to live in this camp was deceived. Some of them have lost their identity. They control only our body but our mind is still Lao. We always hope to return to be Lao both physically and spiritually and to live in our own land!" These sentences were like pure water flowing down and cleansing the body to be happy physically and spiritually. Even though they were only words and only hope, they were able to make his wife smile because she could see the wonderful light shining through the rhythm of her life!

"Although many years have passed, it was a short period. We will not forget the past filled with painful lessons and we will absolutely not let history repeat itself," he emphasized at the end after telling

me everything about his life while he was a refugee in the Nong Khai camp. His face showed no trace of it but happiness and confidence.

"Then how did you bring your family across the river," I asked him.

"By raising my hand I returned voluntarily. We reached Tha Deua with the first group of [returnees], and as soon as we stepped on the motherland it was hard to explain how happy we were. I saw many people wiping away their tears of [happiness]. I myself felt as if I had been dead and was reborn!"

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CSO: 4206/23

BRIEFS

PAKSAN GUERILLAS--With the spirit of supporting and developing the sixth resolution of the third session of the party central committee promoting real achievements, and concurrent with a relentless drive to build the economies in their localities, the military command committee of Paksan District, Bolikhamsai [Vientiane] Province recently started vigorous military arts and tactics training for the guerilla units of its localities. Last week the military command of this district completed the military arts and tactics training for the guerilla units of Sinsai Canton. This involved the rank and file of the armed combat cadres throughout the canton, almost 100 people. They received the complete training. Now, the military command of Paksan District as well as [the military commands] of the other districts of Bolikhamsai Province have followed up by urgently improving and expanding the network of guerilla units in their localities. They mastered this in order to build the strength to defend the nation and the peace in the various production areas so that there can be steady expansion. [Text] [Vientiane PASASON in Lao 11 Oct 84 pp 1, 2] 8149

LUANG PRABANG RICE SALES--In the first 9 months of 1984 the agricultural cooperative members and multiethnic farmers in the eight districts of Luang Prabang Province came in groups bringing their rice harvest to sell and barter for goods offered by the state as part of a large drive. Up to the present they have brought in more than 5,800 tons of rice to sell and barter for goods offered by the state. [Excerpt] [Vientiane KHAOSAN PATHET LAO in Lao 6 Oct 84 p A9] 8149

PRIVATE ENTERPRISE DISCOURAGED--On last 5 October 1984 officials of the Commercial Service of Sisattanak District, Vientiane City, explained [the rules] to the members of the group who buy animals and sell meat throughout the district. Mr Nouan Chan of the commercial service committee of Sisattanak District explained the documents dealing with the rules of cooperatives buying animals and selling meat issued by the City of Vientiane. The members of the group buying animals and selling meat throughout the district came to learn. There were a total of 70 in the group and 52 were women. They made up three groups: a group [handling] swine of type one; a group [handling] swine of type two; and a group [handling] cattle and buffalo. This study session let the members of

the group buying animals and selling meat know the significance and importance of marketing cooperatives for making ties with the party and state and helped them to understand the change in the ideology of marketing from individual and dispersed to communal according to the policy direction of the party and state. The study session went on for 3 days. It continued from 5 to 7 October 1984, and it closed with a great success. It was able to bring 75 percent of the members to accept [the change]. [Text] [Vientiane VIENTIANE MAI in Lao 10 Oct 84 pp 1, 4] 8149

SARAVANE HOSPITAL CAPACITY--Saravane Provincial Hospital is able to accommodate a total of over 100 beds. There is a total of nine buildings including one for medicine storage and one kitchen house. The hospital consists of different sections: outpatient, inpatient, contagious [diseases], obstetrics, and emergency. There is a total of 60 medical personnel including 7 mid-level doctors. [Excerpts] [Vientiane PASASON in Lao 10 Oct 84 p 2] 9884

HATSAIFONG COOPERATIVES--There has been fairly good improvement and expansion of the agricultural co-ops in Hatsaifong District, Vientiane Capital, since early 1984. The agricultural co-ops throughout this district have now increased to 25 units. Mr Baoliphan Temmelat, party committee member and also chief of the agriculture, irrigation and agricultural co-ops of Hatsaifong District told our reporter recently that at the end of 1984 our district agricultural section will expand and improve 10 more agricultural co-ops. This will give a total of 35 units throughout the district in 1984. These 10 agricultural co-ops that are to be set up at the end of this year will be finished in time with the 1984-1985 dry-season rice production. It is expected that the dry-season rice for Hatsaifong District will all be intensive agriculture. According to estimates there will be over approximately 700 hectares. [Text] [Vientiane VIENTIANE MAI in Lao 12 Nov 84 pp 1, 4] 9884

SAVANNAKHET DISTRICT SECURITY--Champhon, the center of Savannakhet, has become a strategic district. Since 1982 the Champhon Youth Union members have been working in close cooperation with the Vietnamese numbers in the Vietnamese Volunteer Division 968. [They] actively wiped out [the enemy] and defended their own land. They wiped out enemies a total of 3,374 times; 87 of the enemy were dead, 162 were wounded, 111 surrendered, and 1 battalion commander was killed. They have also mobilized a great many young people to serve in the military forces. Now 100 percent of the cantons and 65 percent of the villages have military forces, 95 percent of the military forces are youth union members, and 86 percent of the villages are at peace. [Excerpts] [Vientiane NOUM LAO in Lao 1-15 June 84 p 7] 9884

AGRICULTURAL DELEGATIONS RETURN HOME--Vientiane, 12 November (KPL)--A delegation of the Lao Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Cooperatives led by its Vice-Minister Khamsing Sai-Oum returned on 5 November from France after attending a conference on international food in Paris. The same day, another delegation of the ministry led by its Vice-Minister Bouathong Phounsaliit arrived home from a 10-day friendship visit to Hungary. Welcoming the delegations at Wattai Airport were Sitakong Latsaphon, vice-minister of agriculture, irrigation and cooperatives, and other officials. [Text] [Vientiane KPL in English 0915 GMT 12 Nov 84 BK]

ROAD REPAIR WORK--Vientiane, 13 November (KPL)--Over 500 people from Sanakhan District, Vientiane, engaged on 11 November on a voluntary basis in repairing a three-kilometre-long road section. Another 6 km-long road section in the same district was mended by an engineering unit of the army last month. For their part, 400 teachers and students in Sanasomboun District, the southern Champassak Province, recently repaired a long-damaged road, also on a voluntary basis. [Text] [Vientiane KPL in English 0909 GMT 13 Nov 84 BK]

VONGKHAMSAO RETURNS FROM CEMA SESSION--Vientiane, 7 November (OANA-KPL)--A Lao Delegation led by Sali VongkhamSao, secretariat member of the LPRP CC, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers, and chairman of the State Planning Committee, returned here yesterday from the Republic of Cuba. The delegation had attended the 39th session of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance convened in Havana from 29 to 31 October. [Text] [Vientiane KPL in English 0908 GMT 7 Nov 84 BK]

CONSTRUCTION SITES TOURED--Vientiane, 16 November (KPL)--Sisavat Keobounphan, secretary of the party CC and of the Vientiane party committee, recently toured a number of construction sites in Vientiane township. Accompanied S. Keobounphan on this occasion were Sai Phakasoum, vice-minister and head of the communication, transport and building service of Vientiane. The sites visited included the [word indistinct] workshop, the concrete factory and the Sithantai District. [Text] [Vientiane KPL in English 0906 GMT 16 Nov 84 BK]

VONGVICHIT ATTENDS COURSE CEREMONY--Vientiane, 7 November (KPL)--A course on educational management was opened here on 3 November with 45 officials from all parts of the country attending. Among those present at the opening ceremony were Phoumi Vongvichit, Political Bureau member of the party CC, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers, and Bountiam Phitsamai, minister of education. This course, the fifth of its kind, will last 4 months. [Text] [Vientiane KPL in English 0910 GMT 7 Nov 84 BK]

MEETING WITH SRV FORESTRY DELEGATION--Vientiane, 12 November (KPL)--A delegation of the Lao Ministry of Industry, Handicraft and Forestry met here yesterday with a delegation of the Vietnamese Ministry of Forestry to discuss short and long-term cooperation in forestry between the Lao PDR and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. The Lao side was headed by Maisouk Saisompheng, member of the party CC, minister of industry, handicraft and forestry, and the Vietnamese side, by Pham Tuan Dat, alternate member of the Communist Party of Vietnam CC, ministry of forestry and head of the visiting delegation. The two sides informed each other of their past activities and discussed ways to enhance their cooperation for mutual benefits. The Vietnamese delegation arrived on a visit here on 10 November. [Text] [Vientiane KPL in English 0913 GMT 12 Nov 84 BK]

OCTOBER REVOLUTION CELEBRATION--Vientiane, 6 November (KPL)--The Vientiane committee of the Laos-Soviet Friendship Association held here yesterday a meeting to mark the 67th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. Among the 1,000 participants were Khambou Sounisai, member of the party CC, mayor of Vientiane, Vladimir Sobchenko, Soviet ambassador to Laos, and Siho Bannavong, vice-chairman of the Vientiane administrative committee, president of the Vientiane committee of the Lao-Soviet Friendship Association. Speaking at the meeting, Siho Bannavong and V. Sobchenko warmly hailed the anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution and the remarkable achievements of the Soviet people in safeguarding their socialist nation. [Text] [Vientiane KPL in English 0914 GMT 6 Nov 84 BK]

SOVIET EXPERTS' GET-TOGETHER--Vientiane, 7 November (KPL)--A get-together was organized here yesterday to extend best wishes to the Soviet experts working in Laos, on the occasion of the 67th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. Present at the get-together were Vanthong Sengmouang, member of the party CC, minister of trade, and other high ranking Lao officials. Soviet ambassador to Laos Vladimir Sobchenko was also on hand. [Text] [Vientiane KPL in English 0911 GMT 7 Nov 84 BK]

CIVIL AVIATION DELEGATION'S RETURN--Vientiane, 6 November (KPL)--A delegation of the Lao civil aviation led by its head Phoun Khammounhouang arrived here yesterday from Australia. The Lao delegation attended the 20th civil aviation conference for the security of international and domestic aviation service for Asia and the Pacific held from 29 October to 2 November. Delegations from 30 countries of Asia and the Pacific took part at this conference. [Text] [Vientiane KPL in English 0919 GMT 6 Nov 84 BK]

VIETNAMESE LECTURERS ARRIVE--Vientiane, 13 November (KPL)--Lecturers of the Communist Party of Vietnam CC, headed by Cao Son long, high-level technician and advisor to the Propaganda and Training Board of the CPV CC, called on Khamma Phomkong, acting head of the Propaganda and Training Board of the LPRP CC, here yesterday. In the course of the cordial meeting, the host and his guest exchanged views on their work. The Vietnamese delegates arrived here on a visit in the morning of the same day. They will give lectures here in the framework of an agreement between the heads of the Propaganda and Training Boards of the CPV and the LPRP. [Text] [Vientiane KPL in English 0906 GMT 13 Nov 84 BK]

SOVIET FILM WEEK--Vientiane, 8 November (KPL)--A week of Soviet films is being organized here by the Ministry of Culture in collaboration with the Soviet Embassy in Laos in honour of the 67th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. Present at the opening show of the film week on 6 November were Thongsing Thammavong, alternate member of the party CC, minister of culture, and other high-ranking officials. Soviet Ambassador Vladimir Sobchenko, other diplomatic envoys and representatives of international organizations to Laos were also on hand. [Text] [Vientiane KPL in English 0917 GMT 8 Nov 84 BK]

DELEGATION BACK FROM HUNGARY--Vientiane, 8 November (KPL)--Khamphai Bouphou, first deputy-head of the Foreign Relations Department of the party CC, and his delegation returned here yesterday from Hungary. The Lao delegation attended an international conference of the fraternal parties held in Budapest on 30-31 October. Welcoming the delegation at Wattai airport were Khamma Phomkong, head of the Propaganda and Training Board of the party CC, Souban Salitthilat, vice-minister for foreign affairs, and other senior officials. Rosta Laszlo, Hungarian ambassador to Laos, was also present at the airport. [text] [Vientiane KPL in English 0921 GMT 8 Nov 84 BK]

KAMPUCHEAN TRADE DELEGATION--Vientiane, 16 November (KPL)--A delegation of the Kampuchean Ministry of Trade led by its vice-minister left here on 14 November after 1 week-visit. During its visiting in Laos the delegation had a meeting with the Lao minister of trade and signed a protocol on trade cooperation between Laos and Kampuchea. Seeing the delegation off at Wattai Airport were Champheng Bounnaphon, vice-minister of trade and Nguon Phansiphon, Kampuchean ambassador to Laos and other senior officials. [Text] [Vientiane KPL in English 0900 GMT 16 Nov 84 BK]

CSO: 4200/177

MUSA HITAM TALKS ABOUT ETHNIC POLARIZATION

Government's Responsibility

Selangor KIN KWOK DAILY NEWS in Chinese 10 Oct 84 p 2

[Commentary]

[Text] In reply to an oral interpellation in Parliament, Deputy Prime Minister Musa Hitam stated that the government has borne the responsibility for initially creating the major factors for ethnic polarization and that it will not shirk from this responsibility.

We deeply appreciate Musa's reply concerning the government's frank admission, instead of shifting the responsibility onto others. This should be the attitude adopted by a government which is fully responsible to the whole nation.

True, the government must first undertake a detailed investigation about the factors that have created ethnic polarization, then expose them and finally seek the correct channels to curb the deterioration of this problem.

We feel, however, that the government has not really sought the true cause of the disease before treating it. Consequently, the problem of ethnic polarization has developed to the serious stage today. Musa did not deny the fact that, historically speaking, problems already existed in the interrelationship among our nationalities long before independence. However, the government failed to adopt fine or appropriate measures to deal with this problem. Up to now, the government still puts the blame on disturbances by communist elements, on religious fanatics, racists and political opportunists.

We do not deny that these extremists and political opportunists form one of the factors for creating ethnic polarization, but that is only relative, because these elements who have been making trouble out of nothing are merely capitalizing on government policy deviations or the irregularities of certain officials in carrying out their duties in order to attain their ulterior motives. The government, in checking them, should have simultaneously examined its policies with the view to foiling their sinister plots.

In reality, many ethnic polarization problems have been created by certain government officials who, in the process of carrying out national programs, have been utilized by other unscrupulous people. For example, not long ago Ibrahim, political secretary to the minister of agriculture, expressed a distorted opinion purporting that sending children to Chinese primary schools would cause ethnic polarization; a certain education official forbade Chinese schools from using the Chinese language in their school songs and badges; and some officials arbitrarily prohibited a Chinese language society from issuing Chinese-language publications. All these incidents not only cannot solve the problem but even worsen it. We believe that these inefficient, bungling officials should bear the bulk of responsibility for ethnic polarization.

Why is it that the authorities do not face these problems squarely but let them drag on and on. Such indifferent and perfunctory attitude on the part of the authorities cannot but make the people feel suspicious about the government's sincerity in solving ethnic polarization.

The government has now accepted ethnic polarization as fact and Musa has also said that we must push forward more policies and strategies to overcome this problem; at the same time, the government still firmly believes that an overall, systematic plan is needed to resolve the difficulties.

However, we have not seen or known the additional policies and strategies the government plans to carry out, although Musa has cited some examples mentioned in the New Economic Policy (NEP). In other words, he believes that the main policy problem involves the strategy for eradicating poverty and restructuring community development.

We believe in all fairness that the NEP not only fails to wipe out ethnic polarization but also exacerbates it in practice. The implementation of certain government policies has not created a feeling of security among various nationalities but, on the contrary, has made a certain nationality feel that it is a case of "robbing the rich to help the poor." The economic pie is not being equally shared among the citizens, so that when the NEP reaches its deadline, only a tiny group of people will truly benefit from it, while the majority of the people will remain at the rim of poverty struggling for their livelihood.

That is the issue which is often exploited by political opportunists, religious fanatics and racists.

It is true that finding the solution for ethnic polarization cannot become the total responsibility of the government. We, as citizens, have the duty to share the responsibility. As pertinently pointed out by Musa, besides the government, we must rely on the awareness of all strata of our society, as well as their correct attitude and action, to achieve success.

At any rate, we still want to stress that the government's courage in facing the facts and shouldering its responsibility to tackle the problem of ethnic polarization is worthy of our praise and encouragement.

We firmly believe that the joint effort and shared responsibility of the government and the private sector in exposing the extremists' sinister plots will erase ethnic polarization from our land. Then it would mean good fortune to the country and the people!

Curb Ethnic Polarization

Selangor SIN CHEW JIT POH MALAYSIA in Chinese 11 Oct 84 p 20

[Editorial]

[Text] On 8 September, in reply to an interpellation in Parliament, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Musa Hitam disclosed that the government will adopt new strategies to curb ethnic polarization, including the mobilization of the ministries of education, information, the Prime Minister's Department, and culture, youth and sports.

He pointed out that the New Economic Policy [NEP] remains the long-range strategy for curbing ethnic polarization. He also admitted that apart from the Communist Party of Malaya which often utilizes opportunities to cause trouble, we have religious fanatics, racists and political extremists in our country. It is these factors that are causing ethnic polarization.

Of late, government leaders have been making statements on the problem of ethnic polarization, which has brought widespread attention of the people of all walks of life. Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Musa Hitam's highly-constructive remark on this problem has helped the people to understand the nature of the problem and to seek ways to overcome it.

We agree that a correct and smooth implementation of the New Economic Policy [NEP] can effectively surmount the problem, because NEP's basic spirit is the eradication of poverty irrespective of race and the restructure of society to attain the lofty goal of promoting economic development and national unity.

As a matter of fact, there is no conflict between the Chinese and other friendly compatriots in the matter of economic development within our country; on the contrary, they can complement one another. Irregular economic conditions existing among the nationalities can be gradually put to an end by joint efforts in economic development.

However, for the successful execution of the NEP it is incumbent upon the government to review periodically the administration work of the departments concerned in order to forestall deviations. While energetically

helping the bumiputras to promote their economic development, the government should pay attention to the interests of non-bumiputras in order to prevent the emergence of economic polarization problems between the indigenous and nonindigenous elements.

It must be pointed out that a number of governmental statements and measures this year violated the spirit of our national constitution and were detrimental to our national harmony and solidarity. We refer to the queer view expressed by Professor Ibrahim, political secretary to the minister of agriculture, purporting that the sending by Chinese parents of their children to Chinese primary schools has caused ethnic polarization. Another instance was the prohibition by the Malacca Education Bureau against the publication of Chinese-language literature by some national-type Chinese middle schools on grounds of causing ethnic polarization.

We hope that the National Consultative Council on Unity would look squarely at this problem and at the same adopt effective measures to curb ethnic polarization.

At a time when religious fanatics and racists are threatening us and when political opportunists are harboring evil designs, the government should spare no effort to halt certain members of both ruling and opposition parties from making selfish and incendiary statements. Furthermore, the government should call on political workers in or out of government, as well as the masses, to be on the alert always against any possible untoward incident which would destroy our nation.

We firmly believe that if all our citizens throughout the land sincerely accept and respect the fact of our multiracial and multireligion society, and follow and abide by the spirit of our constitution, we can effectively curb the problem of ethnic polarization.

9300

CSO: 4205/6

COMMENTS ON OUTCOME OF GERAKAN PARTY'S ELECTION

Unity Urged

Selangor KIN KWOK DAILY NEWS in Chinese 1 Oct 84 p 2

[Commentary: "Unity Spirit Must Not Be Destroyed"]

[Text] At last, the outcome of the fiercely-competed Central Committee election of the Malaysian People's Movement [GERAKAN] has been made public. It turns out that the faction led by Datuk Lim Keng Yaik has won all important posts in the party. In other words, most of the officers were returned to office at the election.

This Central Committee election has been described by many as the fiercest competition since the political party was founded not long ago. Some people were worried that this election could trigger an internal split.

The GERAKAN professes to be a multiracial party, with its membership comprising Chinese, Malay and Indian nationalities. But the overwhelming majority of its members are Chinese and, in fact, more than 90 percent of the delegates to its central organization are Chinese. Consequently, the Chinese community was equally concerned over GERAKAN's election as the power struggle within the Chinese Malaysian Association [MCA].

Now that the election is over, the Chinese community is paying close attention to GERAKAN's movements henceforward. In other words, is the victorious faction going to launch a purge, getting rid of those not belonging to its own clique, and eventually causing a big split in the party?

Judging by the past, we have learned that leaders of the said party have always followed democratic principles. For instance, during the previous election Datuk Lim Keng Yaik emerged victorious as the party's president after beating his rival Datuk Leong Khee Seong, yet the latter was retained as deputy president and his cabinet post was not affected either. Such disposition won praise from the general public.

This time, Datuk Lim Keng Yaik was challenged by Michael Chen Wing Sum, which almost became his undoing, his Waterloo. After this incident, is Datuk Lim going to remain lenient, bury the hatchets and turn foe into friend? Will his supporters allow him to do so?

In a democratic country, everybody has the right to vote. The same thing applies to a political party, where each member has the right to elect a leader of his choice and to be elected as a leader himself.

In a democracy, the most important principle is that the minority must follow the majority. No matter the winner or the loser, he must abide by the decision of the majority. The winner should not "follow up a victory with hot pursuit," nor should the vanquished "feel backward and have no urge to make progress" and go into retirement.

While officiating at the GERAKAN general assembly, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Musa Hitam also maintained that party members must follow the democratic principles in order to make the party more united and powerful.

The deputy prime minister's word is true. It is quite possible that rivalry crops up at a party election, for it can hardly be averted in a democratic country. But if everybody turns ruthless after an election, the party concerned is bound to be split asunder.

As a party leader, a person must have a magnanimous spirit and embrace one and all. This lofty spirit not only will win greater respect from the members but also serves as an exemplary model of the party's democratic principles.

We believe that leaders of the GERAKAN party are reasonable and intelligent. Their task is how to make the party become more united and stronger, but not to split and weaken it.

Unite and Struggle

Selangor SIN CHEW JIT POH MALAYSIA in Chinese 1 Oct 84 p 20

[Editorial: "Abandon Previous Suspicions; Unite and Struggle"]

[Text] The result of the nationally-awaited election of the six-member 13th Central Committee of the Malaysian People's Movement [GERAKAN] has been announced: Lim Keng Yaik's faction won a landslide victory, clobbering the challenger clique of Chen [Wing Sum] and Goh [Cheng Teik]. No doubt the outcome of this election was a terrible blow to veteran politician Datuk Michael Chen Wing Sum.

Judging by the votes garnered by both the Lim Keng Yaik faction and the Chen-Goh faction, particularly Datuk Paul Leong Khee Seong's victory over Goh Cheng Teik by a majority of five votes for the position of deputy president, we can be sure that the election was a choice between factions, but not personalities.

In all fairness, the two contending factions were well-matched and the contest promised to be close and even. However, on the eve of the party's Central Committee election, Datuk Chen Wing Sum issued a statement which revealed his political ambition to grab the party's No 1 seat, and to covet a ministerial post and the office of the chief minister of Penang. Unfortunately, this self-expose of political intentions evoked an improvement of Lim Keng Yaik's image in the eye of the public; more and more members became sympathetic toward Lim Keng Yaik who already had won open support of the Chinese school teachers bloc within the party. In other words, the complete victory of Lim Keng Yaik's faction for the six Central Committee posts was attributable to the support of Chinese teachers and independent voters.

Although in an election a personal victory and loss is a common happening, yet it carries a special significance in our country where some political parties are made up mostly of Chinese extraction and still politically immature.

At any rate, we hope the victorious adopt a magnificent, gentlemanly attitude, create an ambience of unity, patch up the cracks revealed during the electioneering and win over better impressions of Chinese society.

We may be wrong, but in our view none of the Chen-Goh faction's criticism against the Lim faction during the campaign constituted a goal. Nevertheless, the ruling faction should face the problem squarely and make a self-examination with humility, but should never act arrogantly.

Before the election, Dr Lim Chong Eu, national adviser to the GERAKAN party, expressed hope that the party will not be divided but will grow stronger afterward.

Dr Lim said that if a loser should quit the party after an orderly and democratic election, he should be called an opportunist.

Fortunately, before the election, GERAKAN president Dr Lim Keng Yaik had let it be known that he planned to recommend both Datuk Chen Wing Sum and Dr Goh Cheng Teik as vice presidents; furthermore, after the outcome of the election was announced on 29 September, both Datuk Chen and Dr Goh underlined its democratic spirit and pledged to support the party's new leadership. This was a broad-mindedness that should be owned by political workers, a basic element that augurs well for the maintenance of the party's unity in the days to come. We hope that these are words which come from the bottom of their hearts.

In sum, the GERAKAN's Central Committee election this time amply demonstrated the principle of democratic procedure, and we are gratified about this. We hope the party's new leadership will learn from and profit by the infighting in the Malaysian Chinese Association, strive for its own party's internal unity, carry the democratic spirit forward and serve better the country and the people.

BAN ON CHINESE-LANGUAGE PUBLICATION IN MALACCA RESCINDED

Selangor SIN CHEW JIT POH MALAYSIA in Chinese 26 Sep 84 p 2

[Text] The deputy minister of education, Datin Paduka Rosemary Chong, today announced that she has rescinded the ban of "Roots," a Chinese-language annual published by the Chinese Language Society of the Holy Mother Girls' Middle School in Malacca City.

She said a preliminary investigation shows that the said publication does not violate the Publications Act, so she has given students of the said school permission to carry on printing the manuscripts.

She indicated that her directive to revoke the ban would be forwarded to the head of the Malacca State Education Bureau this coming Thursday at the latest.

In a news conference held today, Datin Paduka Rosemary Chong told reporters that after her telephone conversations with the education bureau officials and school authorities concerned, she discovered that the publication of "Roots" does not violate school and government regulations.

She said that if the ban by the head of the Malacca State Education Bureau were based on the fact that the annual was published in the Chinese language, it would be an error, and a repeal would be called for.

However, as she has not had a formal meeting with the official concerned, she cannot confirm whether the education bureau did ban the annual "Roots" on the grounds that the publication would "lead to racial polarization."

The deputy education minister stressed, however, that as long as school regulations and the government's Publications Act are not violated, students have the right to issue their school publications in any language.

She said that during her preliminary investigation by telephone, she learned that the Chinese Language Society of the Malacca Holy Mother Girls' Middle School did not violate any regulation, that the material were written by the students and that their writings did not violate the national education policy or endanger national unity. Therefore, the said annual can continue to be published.

However, to confirm further her investigation result, the deputy education minister has asked the Chinese Language Society of the said school to submit to her the material to be published in the annual for examination and approval as soon as possible.

In reply to a reporter's question, she said that as her Education Ministry is occupied with a myriad of state affairs, she has not heard of other Chinese-language publications of other schools meeting with the same fate as the Malacca Holy Mother Girls' Middle School, and that unless she receives a formal complaint, she cannot attend to such matters.

9300

CSO: 4205/5

NUMBER OF CHINESE TO ATTEND CANTON TRADE FAIR RESTRICTED

57 To Attend

Selangor KIN KWOK DAILY NEWS in Chinese 28 Sep 84 p 1

[Text] Reacting to the government curtailment of the number of Chinese businessmen permitted to attend the Canton Trade Fair this year, the Selangor Federation of Chinese Chambers of Commerce [FCCC] today invited dealers in Chinese goods, who have been denied permission to attend the fair, to discuss countermoves in an extraordinary meeting at its headquarters today.

Mr Lim Boon Ping, deputy director of FCCC's Trade and Commercial Division, said in light of the fact that both Malaysia and China have been mutually sending delegations to promote bilateral trade relations, he is at a loss as to why the Ministry of Trade and Industry has moved to restrict our merchants from attending the Canton Trade Fair.

He indicated that those not permitted to go to China are commercial firms which have traditionally been dealing in Chinese commodities and their applications coincided with the five guidelines set by the authorities, including 1) receipt of an official invitation from the Canton Trade Fair, 2) a business volume exceeding M\$250,000 per year, 3) over 30 years of age, 4) a standing permission by the government to attend the trade fair at least once a year and 5) possession of the rights to agency of Chinese goods. Therefore, it was beyond our expectation that the majority of these commercial firms have their applications turned down.

It is learned that only 302 businessmen filed applications this year, and that only 57 of them were granted, while 22 others were placed under consideration. The breakdown is as follows: Some 124 businessmen in Penang applied, of whom 22 were approved; 143 applied from Selangor, but only 25 were approved; in Malacca 31 merchants filed applications, of whom 6 were approved, but only after 3 of them were replaced by other representatives. Applicants from other states have not received word from the authorities.

Due to the urgency and seriousness of this principled problem, the FCCC meeting resolved to negotiate with the authorities on the basis of the five guidelines set by the government in the past. Work for the negotiations will be carried out along the following lines: 1) Trading companies which have been refused permission to attend the Canton Trade Fair will separately lodge an appeal with the authorities, explaining the ill effects of their absence from the fair; and 2) Five delegates have been elected to join the FCCC for a delegation to meet with the authorities, and they are: Wee Han Teck, Tan Khai Hee, Theo Pah Lai, Yeoh Thian Teck and Goh Kock Kee.

On the other hand, the FCCC will soon organize an official delegation to exchange views with the authorities in order to better understand the cause and effect of the government move.

Those present at the FCCC meeting today fervently hoped that the authorities would spell out the reasons for rejecting the applications of certain Chinese merchants and give a detailed explanation on the procedure and conditions for filing an application, so that similar rejections will not happen again in the future.

Earlier, Lim Boon Ping also met Chinese traders who have been granted permission to attend the Fall Trade Fair in Canton and who are making last-minute preparations for the trip. In addition, the FCCC meeting also organized an official delegation to the Canton Trade Fair, comprising the following members: Leader, Dr Yeo Yao Chye (FCCC's deputy treasurer); deputy leader, Teo Chee Khai; general affairs, Lao Kim Chuan; financial affairs, Lao Kan; and sectional chiefs, Tan Kock Chan and Chao Ling Huang.

Lim Kit Siang Asks for Clarification

Lim Kit Siang, leader of the opposition party and secretary general of the Democratic Action Party [DAP], called on Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Razaleigh to issue an explanation whether it is the ministry's new policy to restrict Chinese businessmen from attending the annual trade fairs in Canton. He was reacting to the fact that only 57 Chinese traders have been given permission by the ministry to attend the fair this fall, which was beyond him.

In a statement issued yesterday, Lim said that the Ministry of Trade and Industry should not restrict Malaysian businessmen who wish to attend the trade fair, considering the fact that when Foreign Minister Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen visited China last summer, he advocated the promotion of bilateral trade relations between the two countries.

Rejected Applicants Can Appeal

Selangor SIN CHEW JIT POH MALAYSIA in Chinese 30 Sep 84 p 12

[Text] Tengku Razaleigh, minister of trade and industry, said that traders who have been refused permission to attend the Canton Trade Fair this fall may lodge an appeal with his department.

He explained that the authorities were merely curtailing the number of applicants but have not changed their policy.

A total of 302 trading companies have applied for participation in the Canton Trade Fair, but only 57 have been granted permission, and 22 others are still being considered.

Many Chinese chambers of commerce in various states are closely watching this problem, as a result of government restriction on the number of participants.

According to report, among those traders granted permission to attend the trade fair, 6 came from Malacca State, 25 from Selangor State and 22 from Penang.

Answering a reporter's question after officiating at the opening ceremony of newly-established Peh Lee Industrial Company, Ltd today, the minister of trade and industry said that if rejected traders are dissatisfied, they may lodge an appeal with his department.

Dealing Directly With China

Selangor SIN CHEW JIT POH MALAYSIA in Chinese 3 Oct 84 p 1

[Text] As past experience showed that Malaysian traders reaped but meager results out of spring and autumn trade fairs in Canton, the Ministry of Trade and Industry has resolved to revise the method for the traders to buy Chinese products.

In this connection, local traders will no longer rely on the Canton trade fairs as their main channel to buy Chinese commodities.

On the contrary, the Ministry of Trade and Industry will encourage local traders to form a 10- to 15-member trade delegation to hold trade talks directly with the Chinese head offices in Peking and then to inspect the goods at their port offices during the off-season of the Canton trade fairs.

In view of this change in method of our trade with China, the number of Chinese traders permitted to attend the Canton Trade Fair this fall has been greatly reduced.

The aforementioned information was divulged today by Datuk Wong Tok Chai, deputy president of the Associated Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia, who led a 14-member delegation in a meeting with Chairman Samsuddin of the Election Commission to discuss about the prohibition of many traders from attending the Canton Trade Fair.

Datuk Wong said that according to Samsuddin, the curtailment of Chinese traders to visit the fair does not signify a government policy change vis-a-vis China trade.

Datuk Wong said: "Samsuddin indicated that on the basis of past experience, the government deems it necessary to change the method of buying Chinese commodities and to reduce the number of participants in trade fairs. Due to lack of time, few business transactions were completed during such fairs.

"Consequently, the government considers that if we send a trade delegation to China in between the trade fair period, the result can be more fruitful.

"Furthermore, Samsuddin said that if and when China sends a trade delegation to our country, the Ministry of Trade and Industry will provide opportunities for our traders to talk business with the visitors."

Goh Kock Kee, deputy commercial affairs director of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce Federation added: "In brief, there is no change in government policy concerning our trade with China. What is being changed is merely the method of doing business with China.

"In other words, the Ministry of Trade and Industry wants to 'break the whole into parts' and replace Canton trade fairs with direct negotiations undertaken by trade missions each comprising 10 to 15 members representing various enterprises.

"The government believes that this purchasing method is more fruitful than attending trade fairs."

Datuk Wong Tok Chai stressed: "Through the good offices of Samsuddin, we hope that, as many Chinese traders were surprised by the sudden government curtailment of the number of traders permitted to attend the Canton Trade Fair, the authorities would look into the appeals of the 125 rejected applicants submitted today and reconsider their applications. Mr Samsuddin agreed to consider the matter."

Datuk Wong said that it was only 2 days ago that he heard about this new method of purchasing Chinese commodities. Asked about his opinion, he said that this method is worth a try, adding that the Ministry of Trade and Industry has agreed to find some other ways if this method does not work.

In view of several Chinese traders, organizing a small delegation to China to buy Chinese products does not guarantee success. They believe that such a delegation would waste a lot of time and that there would be a small variety of goods to choose from, as compared with buying during a trade fair where numerous categories of commodities are displayed.

On the other hand, according to information gathered by other Chinese traders, the trade delegation the Ministry of Trade and Industry has in mind must have a Malaysian color, comprising not only Chinese traders but also Malay businessmen and representatives of joint enterprises. So it appears that members of such a conglomerate buying mission will find it difficult to have their own way in shopping for Chinese products.

Flexible Handling of China Trade Pattern

Selangor SIN CHEW JIT POH MALAYSIA in Chinese 4 Oct 84 p 18

[Editorial]

[Text] Two days ago, Datuk Wong Tok Chai, deputy president of the Associated Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia, led a delegation to meet with Samsuddin, chairman of the Election Commission, at the Ministry of Trade and Industry to seek clarification for the prohibition of a large number of importers of Chinese products from attending the 1984 Fall Trade Fair in Canton.

Subsequently, Datuk Wong told reporters that the ministry has decided to change the pattern of China trade, because importers of Chinese commodities had failed in the past to reap good results from their attendances at Canton trade fairs. Henceforth, the ministry would encourage local businessmen to organize a 10- to 15-member trade delegation to China during the off-season of the trade fairs and to deal directly with the Chinese head companies in Peking and inspect the goods at their port offices.

Thus it can be seen that the main reason for lessening the number of participants in the Canton Autumn Trade Fair is a change in the China trade pattern adopted by the government.

The government does not change its policy on China trade, but the pattern of the trade, and this direct mode of purchasing Chinese commodities may be described as a breakthrough, which enables businessmen to go directly to production centers, get a factual understanding and make suggestions. Our Chinese traders should welcome this new pattern.

The problem is that this government decision came so sudden that importers of Chinese commodities were unprepared and taken by surprise. In such a situation, their inability in making appropriate adaptation is understandable.

According to our understanding, importers of Chinese products normally sign agency contracts with the Chinese side once every six months. If they are not permitted to attend the semiannual trade fair in Canton, the renewal of their contracts will have to be signed by proxy. This way not only deprives local traders of an opportunity to reflect local market conditions to the Chinese side or to request an improvement in product quality, but also can lead to a leakage of commercial and trading secrets. All this will obviously cause a lot of inconvenience to importers of Chinese products.

Consequently, we hope that before putting the new trading pattern into practice, the government would reconsider the applications of 125 rejected traders submitted through the Federation of Chinese Chambers of Commerce, so they can go attend the Autumn Trade Fair in Canton.

Participation in the spring and autumn trade fairs in Canton by Chinese merchants of our country has had a history of more than 10 years. Judging by their reactions, these Chinese trade fairs have a certain significance to the promotion of Malaysian-Chinese trade.

While the Ministry of Trade and Industry is revising its China trade pattern, we hope the government will handle the problem of Chinese traders' participation in the Canton trade fairs in a flexible manner. This is because the business scope of certain Chinese merchants is relatively suitable to the Canton trade fairs, especially those engaged in agency business; for other Chinese traders it may be better and more fruitful to deal directly with China's head offices or port branches.

In the current new situation, we propose that a dialogue be held between importers of Chinese products and the Federation of Chinese Chambers of Commerce to ascertain the trade pattern most suitable to their business scope, and then submit their findings through the federation to the government in order to facilitate the formulation of proper arrangements.

We are aware that expanding the trade relationship on a mutually beneficial basis is the fundamental aspiration of both Malaysia and China. However, while the bilateral trade is still far from ideal, we hope that both governments would seek effective ways to improve it through a positive attitude.

9300

CSO: 4205/5

EDITORIAL SUPPORTS PAS' DIALOGUE INVITATION TO OTHER PARTIES

Selangor SIN CHEW JIT POH MALAYSIA in Chinese 16 Oct 84 p 19

[Editorial]

[Text] On 4 September, Nakhai Ahmad, vice president of the Partai Islam [PAS], disclosed to newspaper reporters that his party will hold a series of dialogues with member parties of the National Front and other political organizations in an effort to erase from their minds the impression that PAS is an "extremist political party."

He said that PAS will use Islam religion as the point of departure in its discussions on various problems with other parties, totally free from racial barrier. This is the time for all nationalities in Malaysia to break through the racial barrier and jointly solve their common problems, particularly those concerning race and culture.

Nakhai stressed that this series of dialogues has nothing to do with the dispute between his party and the United Malays National Organization [UMNO].

Even so, at a time when the PAS-UMNO public debates have entered a stage of intense publicity campaign leading toward a showdown, we still believe that Nakhai's talk can be taken lightly by the public as a mere ploy to seek the understanding of other parties, including certain National Front member parties, in order to fabricate advantageous conditions for the "public debates."

However, objectively speaking, we hold that PAS' dialogue invitation to all parties, including National Front member, on the one hand, and its imminent public debates with UMNO on the topic of "UMNO members are non-Muslim followers" on the other are two entirely different problems which should not be put on a par or lumped together.

In particular, as our country is being faced with threats of religious fanaticism and racism, as well as the worsening ethnic polarization problem, all political parties should adopt a positive attitude and make a frank, in-depth study of the problems concerned, in order to seek ways to overcome them and make contributions to national stability and unity.

PAS Vice President Nakhaie has already let it be known that he will invite the Chinese Malaysian Association [MCA], a member of the National Front, to a dialogue soon.

We believe that this is PAS' first commendable step made since its founding in the early 1950's.

As a political party representing the ethnic-Chinese people, MCA should gladly welcome this invitation and make ample preparations for a substantive interflow of views between the leaders of both parties.

For a long period now, political parties in our country have been bound by their respective party spirit and lacking in holding beneficial exchanges of opinions in a democratic spirit, which have resulted in the cropping up of contradictions and even mutual attacks.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Musa Hitam admitted the existence of such phenomenon within the membership of the National Front, when he was officiating at the opening ceremony of a GERAKAN party congress in late September.

Therefore, we hope that PAS' dialogue invitation to all other political parties can have an effect of "adding fuel to the flames" for exchanges of views among them from now on.

As a matter of fact, in such a multiracial and multireligion nation as Malaysia, the harmonious coexistence and close collaboration among its various nationalities cannot be separated from the unified, consultative spirit of National Front member parties and the mutual understanding of other political parties as well.

9300

CSO: 4205/7

REQUIREMENT TO USE MALAY IN SCHOOL GATHERINGS CLARIFIED

Selangor KIN KWOK DAILY NEWS in Chinese 14 Oct 84 p 2

[Text] Zainal Abidin, deputy director of the Federal Territory Education Bureau, today clarified before leaders of the Federation of Chinese School Trustees and Teachers [FCSTT] that the bureau's recent circular requiring middle and primary schools to use Malay in their gatherings referred only to national schools, but not Chinese and Tamil primary schools.

He said the purpose of the circular is simply to let all mainstream schools be apprised of the education bureau's directives.

The deputy director said that if school principals have any questions, they should inquire within the education bureau, but not complain through the FCSTT or the media.

Abidin said he has no intention of holding a press conference. If reporters wish to know some detailed information, they should go to his office for particulars, instead of making mountains out of molehills.

A 7-member FCSTT delegation, including its chairman Lim Hong Seng, vice chairman Lok Ting Geok, general affairs director So Thian Beng and a secretary, had called at the Federal Territory Education Bureau to hand over a letter of protest.

In it, the FCSTT opposed the regulation that all middle and primary schools within the Federal Territory must use the Malay language in all school gatherings, such as weekly meetings, oration contests and athletic meets.

The letter said that the medium of teaching in national-type Chinese primary schools is Chinese and that all school gatherings are naturally conducted in the same language. It added that the circular of the Education Bureau, requiring the use of Malay, seriously violated the Chinese society's constitutional rights to use their mother tongue.

The protest letter added that the "one language, one culture" policy pursued by the government cannot achieve the object of a completely united nation; on the contrary, such a policy would create ethnic

polarization within the country. Therefore, the FCSTT expressed hope that the authorities concerned would speedily rescind the said directive.

In addition, the FCSTT appealed to all Chinese primary school principals, the PTA Federation and all school alumni to be on the alert in facing this sensitive problem and to keep in touch with the FCSTT in order to safeguard the characteristics of our Chinese primary schools forever.

9300

CSO: 4205/7

DOUBTS ABOUT REQUIREMENT TO USE MALAY IN SCHOOL GATHERINGS

Selangor KIN KWOK DAILY NEWS in Chinese 14 Oct 84 p 2

[Commentary]

[Text] Today all secondary and primary schools located within the Federal Territory again received another circular ordering them to use Malay in all gatherings, such as weekly meetings, oratorical contests and athletic meets. In other words, all mainstream schools, big or small, must conduct their meetings of any kind in the national language. This directive came in the wake of a series of unresolved incidents, to wit, the distorted opinion that sending children to Chinese schools causes ethnic polarization, the administrative deviation that all school songs and emblems must use Malay, and the arbitrary instruction that school publications must not be published in the Chinese language.

According to press report, the latest circular notice came from the Federal Territory Education Bureau which reminded all schools to abide by it strictly.

In a meeting with representatives of the Federation of Chinese School Trustees and Teachers [FCSTT], Zainal Abidin, deputy director of the education bureau concerned, clarified that the directive is meant for national secondary and primary schools only, without affecting Chinese and Tamil primary schools. He added that the circular was issued with the view to letting all mainstream schools know of all valid instructions of the Education Bureau.

Yet, we still harbor doubts. There is no question that all national schools use Malay in gatherings, because Malay is their medium of teaching. As Chinese and Tamil primary schools use their respective mother tongues for teaching, why is it that the Education Bureau instruction was sent to all secondary and primary schools located within the Federal Territory? Why was it not sent to schools in other states? Why did the Education Bureau want all mainstream (note all mainstream) schools in the Federal Territory to understand all its instructions? We cannot help wondering about these questions.

Anyhow, this instruction of the Education Bureau is inappropriate.

Besides ordering the use of the national language, the authorities also forbid school principals from issuing public statements concerning school affairs or school incidents which are serious enough to evoke public attention; instead, the principals are required to submit reports addressed to the chief or deputy chief of the Educational Inspectorate. It is obvious that this regulation has been drawn up as a consequence of the three incidents mentioned above.

Leaving aside this requirement for school principals, we cannot but feel suspicious of the Education Bureau's improper intent to lead us toward the direction of unitary nationality, unitary culture and unitary education, when it ordered all schools within the Federal Territory to use the national language in their gatherings. This kind of policy, acted upon wilfully without prior consultation with the parties involved, is a challenge not only to Chinese society but also to the constitution which grants all nationalities the right to use their mother tongues. Such action and work style is an insult to Chinese society and the constitution.

We believe that to the Chinese schools, this directive violates the tradition of the teaching of national language as a subject of study or a means of communication. It also runs counter to the common international practice of using the national language concerned to teach in national schools, and robs the nationals of the right to use their own national language.

We do not object that in certain official gatherings or on official occasions, the Malay language be used to express opinions, but it does not make sense no matter how you look at it if a Chinese-language school is required to communicate in Malay in all its meetings. All the more so, because the authorities merely issued the circular to all secondary and primary schools without giving any reason. This was tantamount to worsening ethnic polarization. It is a pity that this problem should crop up at a time when Deputy Prime Minister Musa Hitam has just indicated the government's responsibility in seeking new strategies to resolve the difficulties. As citizens, it is hard for us to understand the government's policy on this score.

We are at a loss why the government wants to separate the relationship between schools and societies. We feel that as tax payers, we have the responsibility to know what is going on in schools, to supervise them and to develop them toward perfection. We must not underestimate the role played by schools. However, the authorities want to separate the schools from the societies. This gives us an impression that the Education Bureau can directly order schools to do this or that, whether reasonable or otherwise, and that the public need not know what the education authorities are carrying on in the dark.

This, we must say, violates the principles of our education policy, violates the basic principle of the school-society interrelationship, and this course of action will get us absolutely nowhere. No such phenomenon has taken place anywhere else in the world.

We believe that this series of actions by the authorities is not something accidental, but has given us a feeling of a systematic, well-planned intrigue. If such were the case, it would constitute a serious problem we cannot watch idly by, an unfortunate event for the nation.

9300

CSO: 4205/7

LEADING JAPANESE BUSINESSMEN EXPLORE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 16 Oct 84 p 20

[Text]

A delegation of leading Japanese businessmen explored investment opportunities in New Zealand at a meeting yesterday with the Minister of Overseas Trade and Marketing, Mr Moore.

The group of 27 were from the business organisation Chukeiren, which Mr Moore described as a "super chamber of commerce."

He said the group, representing interests including food, energy and banking, were potential multi-million-dollar investors.

"There would have been as much money represented in this room at 10 o'clock this morning as there is probably in our gross national product," he said.

The businessmen were looking to invest in profitable areas such as top-quality tourism ventures and value-added energy related industries.

Some of the companies represented on the familiarisation tour are already in joint ventures in New Zealand.

Mr Moore emphasised that while keen to encourage foreign investment, the Government would also aim to safeguard New Zealand's interests.

"They are looking at the best opportunities for them and we are looking at the best opportunities for us.

"We would safeguard New Zealand's interests, but there are some areas where they can bring skill and technology that we do not have, and markets that we do not have."

Mr Moore said he had met several of the businessmen on a recent trip to Japan.

He expected visits by such delegations to become more common and added: "If we can get one job out of visits like this, I would be happy."

CSO: 4200/174

DAILY REPORTS CANADA'S NUCLEAR SHIP VISIT POLICY

Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 9 Oct 84 p 16

[Text]

Naval visits to Canadian ports by nuclear-powered or nuclear-armed Allied ships are an integral part of Canada's defence policies.

The "Post" had asked the Canadian High Commission in Wellington, along with those of other Pacific rim countries, for their policy on visits by nuclear-powered ships.

Granting Allied naval vessels access to Canadian waters, ports and facilities of the Canadian forces, is an integral part of Canada's defence co-operation, and is provided on a reciprocal basis, according to the commission's first secretary, Mr M S Wodinsky.

The Canadian defence and security policy is based on co-operation with the United States and Nato allies, Mr Wodinsky said.

In keeping with the commitment to Nato, Canada allows visits to her

ports of nuclear-powered naval vessels. The Government, however, restricts these visits to the military bases at Halifax, Nova Scotia, and Esquimalt and Nanaimo, British Columbia, where there are facilities and personnel to cope with any "unanticipated difficulties with the vessels' nuclear propulsion system."

Visits by commercial or civil nuclear-powered vessels have the same restrictions.

Proposed visits by nuclear-powered ships — usually those of the United States Navy, but sometimes by the British or French Navies — requires prior notification and consultation.

Canada requires assurances of the safe operation of propulsion systems and ships must agree to certain procedures. These include assurances that no discharge of nuclear or ra-

dioactive waste will be made in Canadian waters, and restrictions on navigation.

Mr Wodinsky said Allied naval vessels visiting Canadian ports may carry nuclear weapons. "It is not the policy of Allied powers operating such vessels either to confirm or to deny the presence of nuclear weapons on board," he said. "In accord with Canada's commitment to defence co-operation, the Canadian Government respects that policy."

He said Canada has never been a nuclear-weapons state herself. Although they were one of the few countries after the Second World War to have the technology and resources to build nuclear weapons, successive Canadian governments have renounced this option and pursued "peaceful uses of nuclear energy."

CSO: 4200/174

DAILY ANALYZES LABOR'S 'ROBIN HOOD' BUDGET

Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 9 Oct 84 p 6

[Article by Tony Garnier]

[Text]

As budget night looms (November 8), it is useful to imagine Finance Minister Roger Douglas preparing to play the role of a modern-day Robin Hood wearing a pin-stripe suit.

Taking from the "rich" to help the "poor" seems certain to be a theme of the budget.

The group of white-collared executives who drive company cars and use expense accounts will be asked to surrender and deliver.

A little further down the road, some of this "wealth" will be redistributed among the nation's "poor," the low-income families (below \$6000 a year?) and those dependent solely on benefits.

The budget detail is not yet finalised, but the rhetoric is already apparent.

There will be a lot of attention to resource allocation and equity.

It will be stressed that the budget forms part of a long-term strategy, the thrust of which will be outlined. And there will be a promise that future action will be consistent with the framework in the budget rhetoric.

A part of the budget will highlight the Government's concern to ensure the use of resources reflect their market values.

For example, the increased levy recently announced for orange roughy fish is aimed at reflecting its true market value.

Adjustments foreshadowed to road user and electricity charges, and decisions on SMPs and export incentives reflect the same concern; that prices are set

by production costs and/or global market values.

By allowing market signals to dictate which is a valuable resource, producers will be encouraged to restructure accordingly.

As Mr Douglas told exporters in Wellington last week, a farmer who has grazed sheep in flat, arable land for a profit thanks to SMP payments, may be encouraged to try horticulture to earn a similar or bigger profit, but one gained from the marketplace, not from a government handout.

A large part of the budget text will focus on fleshing out the Government's concern to restructure the tax system so it is more equitable.

At least four areas in which more "equity" will be sought will be mentioned.

- In the personal tax system, the thrust will be to better identify people who really need help; for example, for housing assistance, benefits, and dependents.

- There will be pointers towards a future (next year?) rationalisation of the wholesale sales tax system, coupled with a resurrection of the McCaw tax committee proposals for a value added tax (Vat) at retail level.

- There will be a move towards a tax system based on direct transfers, rather than subsidies, for example, rebates for electricity charges will go to groups identified as in need, rather than as a subsidy to a particular sector.

- The concern for social equity will be reflected in some long-term initiatives to link employment and labour market needs with the education system and giv-

ing people more opportunity.

In what has been touted as a kite-flying exercise, the Under-Secretary to the Minister of Finance, Trevor de Cleene, has mentioned numerous new ideas which, if adopted, would widen the tax base significantly.

Some of these are certain to surface in the budget, but possibly others will merely be foreshadowed as part of a more comprehensive tax reform package tipped for next year. The reason for the time lag will be made clear.

Normally, a budget is prepared on a year-long cycle. However, this year's effort will follow just 14 weeks after the election, giving the Government little time to set up the administrative machinery necessary to implement some of its budgetary proposals.

Considerable rhetoric will be given to the need to reduce the budget deficit.

However, surprisingly perhaps, achieving this goal may prove less difficult than some economists are forecasting.

Recent speeches by the Government's finance team (Messrs Douglas, de Cleene, David Caygill and Richard Prebble) and the documents released in the opening of the books exercise have revealed more than enough ideas to eliminate the \$3.1 billion deficit in a single budget.

These include removing tax expenditures (worth \$1500 million a year), taxing fringe benefits (\$200 million), altering tax codes for high-earning superannuitants and family benefit recipients (\$200 million), abolishing SMPs and export performance taxation incentives

(\$500 million), and adjusting government charges to reflect true production costs and market values.

However, a budget structured solely with cutting the budget deficit as the aim would be political suicide.

Hence, the comparison with Robin Hood.

While the opening of the books has revealed how easy in theory it could be to cut the deficit, it has also unearthed some disturbing inequalities in God's Own.

For example, a third of the total personal income tax revenue of \$6.7 billion comes from people receiving less than \$6000 a year.

By comparison, the net payment of taxation by companies in 1983-84 was only \$700 million.

That is, while the budget must probe new areas for revenue (to cut the deficit), it must also address some large social inequities by reallocating revenue away from people and groups who don't really need it to those caught in the poverty trap.

The recent economic summit gave the Government permission (an order) to go ahead with decisive and tough decisions along the above lines.

Politically, this budget will be the Government's sole chance to launch real change on the electorate without automatically incurring its wrath.

Despite this mandate, however, November 8 will mark the end of Labour's honeymoon. On the morning of Friday, November 8, the hard reality of governing will set in — assessments will start on whether Labour is doing the job or making a mess.

ASSURANCES ON TROOPS IN SINGAPORE RELATED TO ANZUS

Christchurch THE PRESS in English 9 Oct 84 p 16

[Editorial: "N.Z. Troops in Singapore"]

[Text] The assurance given by the Prime Minister, Mr Lange, to the Singapore Prime Minister, Mr Lee, that there would be no precipitate or unilateral withdrawal of New Zealand troops from Singapore, is sensible. It amounts to a continuation of the present policy. There was something of a change of mind on the subject between the 1978 Defence Review and the Defence Review brought out at the end of last year. The 1978 review suggested an eventual return to New Zealand; the 1983 review argued that, in the meantime, the retention of the force in Singapore was constructive and appropriate. Various reasons were cited to support this view. One was that security in the region appeared less assured than in 1978. The Vietnamese invasion of Kampuchea and the access to Vietnam for Soviet naval and air forces were mentioned. A further reason lay in the attitudes of the Governments of the region, which welcomed the stationing of the forces there.

The preferences of Singapore and Malaysia for having the New Zealand troops in Singapore and the Australian Air Force units in Butterworth, Malaysia, are good reasons for leaving the Singapore force where it is. The troops have been in Singapore since 1955. During that time New Zealand has gone through a number of changes in its own defence thinking. At one time, troops in South-East Asia were considered to be part of New Zealand's forward defence and various slogans about preferring to fight "them" in the jungles or paddy fields of South-East Asia rather than in New Zealand were among a number of views, some now acknowledged to have been mistaken, about Chinese intentions towards this part of the world. The troops are not in Singapore any longer as any part of a "forward defence" policy. They are there mainly because Singapore and Malaysia in particular, want them to be there.

The reason why they want the troops there has a great deal more to do with psychology than it has with defence or general strategic outlook. To a large extent, the reason is intangible. The presence of troops is considered to help lend an air of stability to the region. The presence is seen as demonstrating that Singapore and Malaysia have links elsewhere. New Zealand has bilateral treaties with Singapore and Malaysia about the stationing of the troops and their exercises, but the over-all link is under the Five-Power Defence Arrangements which includes Britain as well as New Zealand, Australia, Malaysia, and Singapore.

Britain's links with South-East Asia are a great deal more tenuous than they used to be. The presence of the New Zealand soldiers and the Australian airmen helps to keep the bond intact. Malaysia and Singapore are mindful of the fact that New Zealand and Australia are members of the defence alliance, A.N.Z.U.S., and that therefore there is another link to a big Power, the United States, the third member of A.N.Z.U.S. Mr Lange said that Mr Lee had not ventured to say whether New Zealand should stay in A.N.Z.U.S.; but Mr Lange was convinced that Mr Lee thought New Zealand should do so.

A.N.Z.U.S. probably has a great deal to do with Mr Lange's assurances to Mr Lee. Because of the ban on visits of nuclear-powered or nuclear-armed ships to New Zealand ports, there has been much uncertainty about the future of A.N.Z.U.S. What Mr Lange is doing in leaving the troops in Singapore, and in various statements around the world, is attempting to demonstrate that New Zealand remains a fully committed member of the Western world. Leaving the troops there may solve a number of problems of accommodating troops in New Zealand, and it may help recruitment for the Armed Forces. These reasons would be hard to

offer as sole justification for leaving the troops there. The fact that Singapore and Malaysia want the troops to remain, and that the New Zealand Government wants to show that it is a firm member of the Western world, have become the most important considerations. The terms of the presence of the troops expressly forbid any role in the internal affairs of Singapore and Malaysia. The troops, for instance, could not be called in to deal with any internal disturbances. Their continued presence, for whatever reason, would seem a reasonable price to pay for any stability they might help to bring to the region.

CSO: 4200/174

LANGE ON CONDITIONS, 'SIGNALS' ON N-POWERED SHIP VISITS

Clarification Follows 'Backsliding'

Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 9 Oct 84 p 3

[Text] **The prospect of the Government's reviewing its ban on visits by nuclear-powered ships has been ruled out while the United States neither confirms nor denies the presence of nuclear weapons on its vessels.**

The Prime Minister, Mr Lange, went to some length yesterday to clarify that policy position, amid claims that the Government was softening its anti-nuclear stance.

He said after a cabinet meeting that the policy banning visits by nuclear-propelled ships could be reviewed if:

- The United States confirmed that a vessel seeking to visit New Zealand was not nuclear-armed.

- If a ship was nuclear-propelled, the United States could satisfy the Government that all safety and environmental considerations had been met by the vessel.

National Policy

Mr Lange added: "If there is to be no change in the [American] stance with respect to weaponry, then there will be no need to inquire as to environment and safety, because they will not come."

Earlier yesterday he was accused of "backsliding" on the issue after indicating in Auckland on Sunday that he favoured a policy of allow-

ing visits by nuclear-powered vessels, provided they were not carrying nuclear weapons and met certain safety and environment standards.

The Opposition spokesman on foreign affairs, the Hon Warren Cooper, said such a position matched National Party policy for the last eight and a half years.

Referring to a New Zealand Herald-National Research Bureau survey which showed two-to-one support for visits by nuclear-powered, but not nuclear-armed, warships, Mr Cooper said: "After an overnight sleep, and a look at the public opinion polls, we witness yet another switch in direction."

The deputy leader of the Social Credit Party, Mr Garry Knapp, said Mr Lange's suggestion amounted to a "potential major backslide" by the Government on the issue.

Not Modified

"The Prime Minister knows well that the overwhelming majority of

nuclear-powered military vessels either carry or have the capacity to carry nuclear weapons," he said.

But Helen Clark, the Government MP who chairs the select committee on disarmament and arms control and is a strong supporter of the party's anti-nuclear policies, said Mr Lange had not modified the party stance.

She said Mr Lange was calling for more public debate on the subjects, and there was no harm in bringing into the open the safety and environmental reasons for Labour having reservations about nuclear-propelled ships visiting.

But the MP for Sydenham and former president of the party, Mr Jim Anderson, said he could not understand why Mr Lange had made the comments.

"While the policy could be examined again by the party — and there is no question about that — I think there will be strong reservations about changing it, even if there were assurances on nuclear weaponry."

There were strong reasons for not letting nuclear-propelled vessels into our ports, even if assurances were gained that they were not nuclear

armed, said Mr Anderson.

Accidents

"The chances of contamination are not high," he said, "but there have been reactor accidents. We know that. Why take a risk with a farm-based economy as vulnerable as ours?" he asked.

Mr Lange said the Government's policy on nuclear-propelled ships could be explained in terms of safety and environment.

"Those are the criteria that dictate the propulsion policy," he said. "A nuclear weapon can come on any vessel, nuclear-propelled or oil or sail-driven."

"The propulsion issue is one principle and the weapon issue is a basic, fundamental abhorrence by the New Zealand people, the party and the Government, of weaponry."

He said there would obviously be a review of the policy relating to nuclear propulsion if it could be demonstrated that the two considerations of safety and environment could be "laid to rest" and the ships were not nuclear-armed.

But the policy of the United States not to confirm or deny the presence of weapons was the "sticking point."

Editorial on Signals

Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 9 Oct 84 p 6

[Editorial: "New Signals on Anzus"]

[Text] Perhaps the most significant point about Anzus at the moment is that the Prime Minister is still talking uncertainly about it on his return from overseas. If the matter was finally cut and dried, he would scarcely do so.

But he has sent out signals (designed to be received in Canberra and Washington?) that the door is not quite shut on visits by nuclear-powered ships which are not nuclear armed. Whether any such ships exist may be another matter. The words that will be picked up by the Anzus partners about the nuclear ships policy are: "Definitely it will be looked at. There will be an examination of policy..." The qualification "...but it will not necessarily have that particular stance to it" may not dim the message overseas.

Sir Robert Muldoon believes that Mr Lange, on his recent trip, has received new insights about Labour's stance. Perhaps he has, but even so his scope for action seems limited. He has locked himself into a rejection of allowing nuclear weapons to come here, and the knowledge that the public supports that stand by two to one would make it all the harder for him to change direction, even if he wished.

Still, the public's equally strong approval for visits by nuclear-powered but not nuclear-armed warships--which can be taken to mean American warships--appears to show a decided preference for maintaining defence links with the United States. New Zealanders seem to want Anzus, a point that may strengthen Mr Lange in facing the further-out elements of this party.

Whatever the Americans may have said in private, they have had the common sense to avoid any public hint of pressure. Not so the Premier of Queensland, Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen, who wants the Australian Government to apply trade pressure against New Zealand because of its nuclear stance. If Canberra will not act, he says, he will campaign in Queensland against New Zealand goods.

How any ex-New Zealander can so misread the New Zealand psyche is hard to imagine. Any such move by the Australian Government would instantly unite every squabbling faction in New Zealand into total resistance against outrageous blackmail. The result would be entirely the opposite of what this witless suggestion is meant to achieve.

Washington and Canberra surely have more sense. Approaches should be strictly private until the New Zealand Government has sorted out, one way or another, a very delicate matter.

Replies to Queensland Premier

Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 9 Oct 84 p 4

[Text]

Prime Minister Mr Lange is unconcerned at suggestions from Queensland Premier Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen of possible retaliatory action against New Zealand over the Labour Government's anti-nuclear stance.

Sir Joh said that unless New Zealand changed its attitude, Australia should consider blocking exports from that country with high import tariffs.

He said the New Zealand Government's opposition to the visit of United States nuclear-armed ships could endanger Australia's

defence.

Mr Lange told reporters he was unconcerned as Sir Joh had no power to impose embargos.

"The man in fact has no mandate to run a defence, foreign relations or trade and industry policy," Mr Lange said.

"If you're talking about threats of embargos from Australia, first you have to sort out who can impose an embargo -- and he can't."

He suggested Sir Joh would be better to concentrate on Queensland affairs over which he had control.

UNIONIST DISCUSSES FEARS ON FOREIGN INVESTMENT

Christchurch THE PRESS in English 8 Oct 84 p 4

[Text]

PA Wellington

Recent statements on C.E.R. by the Minister of Trade and Industry, Mr Caygill, suggested that New Zealand could soon become a low-paid, overseas-owned nation, the national secretary of the Engineers' Union, Mr Rex Jones, has said.

Addressing a British trade delegation, Mr Caygill had urged British and other investors to come to New Zealand as a base for supplying Australia under C.E.R.

Mr Jones said that metal industry unions were "astounded" to hear a Labour Minister openly soliciting money from foreign investors.

"It is disappointing to find the Minister does not recognise the dangers of international investment to New Zealand, particularly the loss of control over our resources that this means," he said.

"Unions will certainly be asking what is behind Mr Caygill's statement, that New Zealand would be

more attractive to investors because of our lower wage rates and better industrial climate.

"What does this mean? Are wage and salary earners going to be asked to give up future wage increases and suffer further cuts in their standards of living for the sake of competition with Australia? Most of our members cannot afford to slip back any more."

Mr Jones said that Mr Caygill's comments were unrealistic and that Australians, "unimpressed with C.E.R.'s being used as bait for foreign investment," would ignore New Zealand's actions at their expense.

"Mr Caygill is surely aware that the Australian Senate is conducting a review of C.E.R. That does not sound like Australia ignoring this country. If New Zealand continues touting for business like this, that can only lead to the very good relations between the two Governments being jeopardised," he said.

CSO: 4200/174

LANGE DEFENDS FOREIGN POLICY IN PARLIAMENT DEBATE

Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 10 Oct 84 p 5

[Text]

The Government's foreign policy was slammed in Parliament last night as a mixture of crass stupidity, total innocence and a repetition of the Muldoon Government's approach.

The National Party spokesman on foreign affairs, the Hon Warren Cooper, claimed that the post-election decision to force the closure of the South African Consulate in Wellington was one example of a stupid foreign policy initiative.

Like other decisions which the new Government had taken, it demonstrated a collapse of the executive branch of the Government to the wishes of the Labour Party's left wing.

But the Prime Minister, Mr Lange, kicking off a special two-night foreign affairs debate in the House, said the Government had won an overwhelming mandate from the people of New Zealand.

Wild Myth

"This party was elected to office with the support of the people of New Zealand to achieve real forward movement on disarmament, arms control and the search for peace."

He ranged across several topics, including the pursuit of a nuclear-free zone in the Pacific, New Zealand's firm ties with the United States and the future of the Anzus alliance, and the struggle for independence in New Caledonia.

Mr Lange vigorously attacked claims that the ban on nuclear ships would harm trade with the United States as "one of the wilder myths that the Opposition has been conjuring up."

The "Jeremiahs" on the National Party benches were harming New Zealand by making such claims, he said.

Mr Lange dispelled the claim that the Americans would use trade as a "great battering ram" or some "giant economic club" to make New Zealand change its anti-nuclear policy.

He said the American Secretary of State, Mr Shultz, had given two assurances that trade restrictions would not be used as a reprisal over New Zealand's nuclear stance.

White House

There were lobbies in the United States, including dairy farmers and sheepmeat producers, who would "have a crack" at New Zealand. "They will have a go," said Mr Lange. "they have had a go at us for years."

But the biggest lobby of all, the White House, had "not allowed them to put up their little protectionist shutters against the free trade."

There was not going to be a sudden reversal of the American posture on free trade just before the presidential election.

Mr Cooper said the Government's foreign policy was a victory for the left-wing of the Labour Party.

"I believe the National Government handed over policy in good shape.

"But a review of the last nine weeks' activity reveals a mixture of crass stupidity, total ignorance and an endorsement of the policies they inherited.

Gold Cache

Mr Cooper said the re-opening of the New Zealand High Commission in New Delhi and the renovations to New Zealand House in London were extravagances.

"Where has the Government found this cache of gold to provide this huge expenditure overseas?"

The renovations to New Zealand House would cost \$13 million, while the new High Commission would cost up to \$5 million, he said.

"They cannot have their cake and eat it. Either there is money or there is no money."

Supremacy

The Hon Merv Wellington (Nat—Papakura) said the Opposition and the Government were united in their

abhorrence to nuclear warfare, but the Government had not outlined how the country could work its way through practical problems.

These included the Soviet Union's reluctance to leave the United States with a clear and uncontested supremacy in any part of the world, including the Pacific.

The invasions of Grenada and the Falklands had reminded New Zealand and the smaller states to her north of the vulnerability of small island states, he said.

Mr Paul East (Nat—Rotorua) said there were two views to take on the Anzus issue. The first was that a strong United States offered security and peace to the world and therefore one supported Anzus.

Fallacy

The opposite tack, taken by the Government, was that the United States did not need friends or allies and that New Zealand and other allies could opt out of the pact and be just as secure with a [?] United States.

"We believe there is fallacy in that argument," Mr. East said.

"We say any step taken by any country in the Western alliance which detracts from the strength of that alliance, the strength of the United States and its allies, raises the peril of nuclear war."

RESERVE BANK FIGURES SHOW FARM EXPORTS LAG BEHIND

Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 9 Oct 84 p 5

[Text] Receipts from New Zealand's traditional exports of meat, wool and dairy products continued to feature poorly in the latest overseas exchange transaction figures released by the Reserve Bank.

For the year ended August, meat receipts had dropped by 2 per cent, from \$1880.3 million to \$1838.6 million, wool had risen only 3 per cent, from \$1084.9 million to \$1117.5 million, and dairy products had fallen 10 per cent, from \$1571.4 million to \$1414.9 million.

In comparison, forest products showed a 19 per cent increase, from \$590 million to \$702.2 million, while other primary products showed a 53.9 per cent increase in returns, from \$472.2 million to \$726.5 million.

Capital Receipts

Manufactured exports continued to improve, rising 16.5 per cent during the year, from \$1,374.7 million to \$1,601.8 million.

These contributed to an 8.8 per cent increase in current receipts, to \$10,402.4 million.

Government borrowing of \$2,778.5 million and private capital receipts of \$1,548.9 million were the major components of total

capital receipts of \$5,025.6 million, bringing total receipts to \$15,428.0 million — an 18.4 per cent rise from \$13,031.3 million for the year ended August, 1983.

Current payments of \$12,395.7 million included import payments of \$7,456.3 million, which were up 21.5 per cent. With capital payments of \$1,970.5 million added, which included Government debt repayments of only \$359.7 million compared with \$1,228.1 million a year earlier, this resulted in a 15.2 per cent increase in payments from \$12,467 million to \$14,366.2 million.

The balance of trade transactions was down to \$523.8 million from \$1,387.7 million while the invisible transactions deficit rose from \$2,086.2 million to \$2,517.1 million. This resulted in an increase in the current account deficit from \$698.5 million to \$1,993.3 million.

The overseas exchange transaction figures show that the official capital ac-

count balance at the end of August, 1984, was \$2,540.5 million up from \$30.1 million while the private capital account balance was \$514.6 million compared with \$1,249.4 million.

For the month of August, 1984, an overseas exchange account deficit of \$88 million was recorded compared with a deficit of \$271 million in the previous month and a surplus of \$36 million in August 1983.

Export receipts were only 5 per cent higher than for August, 1983, largely due to a fall in receipts for meat (down 11 per cent) and wool (down 19 per cent). Import payments were up 17 per cent on August 1983.

Reserves Fall

There was a net capital outflow of \$257 million over the month of August made up of an official outflow of \$162 million and private outflow of \$95 million.

Official overseas reserves fell by \$320 million in the month of August to be \$2656 million at the end of the month.

ATHIT GETS POLITICAL BOOST FROM U.S. TRIP

BK211440 Bangkok WIWAT in Thai 10-16 Nov 84 pp 16, 17

[Article: "U.S. Tour: What Did General Athit Get To Enhance His Prestige?"]

[Text] Supreme Commander and Army Commander in Chief General Athit Kamlang-ek visited the United States from late October to 6 November. Apart from touring the U.S. Asian and Pacific Command at the invitation of Admiral Crowe, Gen Athit also presided over the Kathin ceremony at the Thai temple in Los Angeles.

Political observers noted that this U.S. trip is most important for Gen Athit politically as well as militarily, although Gen Athit had made two previous visits to the United States in late 1979 and early in 1983. These trips, however, had been made in his capacity as newly appointed army commander in chief touring the United States to meet senior U.S. military officers. Those visits did not, therefore, carry great political or military significance.

Gen Athit's visit to the U.S. Asian and Pacific forces as the guest of its commander, Adm Crowe, is not very significant as many officers of the Royal Thai Armed Forces, especially the navy, have often visited this U.S. command. What is very significant about the trip is Gen Athit's scheduled meeting with Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff General Vessey, the first of its kind since Gen Athit became army chief and supreme commander. Gen Athit had never before met Gen Vessey, whose position is equivalent to that of a supreme commander and who is the top decisionmaker in the U.S. Armed Forces. Gen Athit's not having met Gen Vessey had been interpreted by military observers as uncertainty in the past on the part of the United States over Gen Athit's stability in his top military position. It was also thought that the United States did not like Gen Athit because of his harsh attitude towards it.

It should be noted that during Gen Vessey's visit to Thailand as the guest of the then supreme commander, General Saiyut Koetphon, Gen Athit did not attend any reception, banquet, or function held to welcome Gen Vessey during his stay in Thailand. After becoming Thailand's supreme commander, Gen Athit wanted to please the Air Force by showing his fervent support of its plan to purchase the F-16 aircraft from the United States and adopted a harsh approach with regard to the United States, saying the U.S. decision on this matter would prove the true friendship between the United States and Thailand. Anticipating that the United States might not sell the aircraft to Thailand, Gen

Athit even challenged it by saying that there is no need to present other options (the F-20) to Thailand because Thailand only wants the F-16 and if the United States does not sell it, Thailand will look for other types of aircraft in Europe. No military leader in Thailand has even adopted such a strong attitude towards the United States.

It was therefore no surprise that Gen Athit was not accepted by the United States. Two months ago, when the government of Prime Minister General Prem Tinsulanon came under strong attack from the military over the failure in administration, U.S. Ambassador to Thailand John Gunther Dean came out to defend the Prem government, thereby improving the stability of the government.

Gen Athit's meeting with Gen Vessey was, therefore, interpreted by military observers as an indication of U.S. acceptance--more or less--of Gen Athit. The United States must have at least recognized that Gen Athit is now in full control as leader of the Thai Armed Forces. Politically speaking, it must have also seen that apart from Gen Prem, who is the present prime minister, a person highly likely to assume power in Thailand's future leadership is Gen Athit, making it pointless for the United States to continue to ignore him.

"The report about reopening a U.S. base or rest-and-recreation center in Thailand is of direct concern to the United States, and this will make it necessary for the United States to discuss it seriously with Gen Athit. The survival of the U.S. base in the Philippines depends on the chances for survival of the Marcos regime. Moreover, the Soviets' approaching an ASEAN government to sell weapons--the Malaysian defense minister even planned a visit to the USSR--must have added to the U.S. concern," an expert told WIWAT.

His current trip to the United States is also the first time that Gen Athit has had a formal meeting with Thai people there. Gen Athit reiterated to them: "I have never thought of becoming prime minister. Being a prime minister in Thailand is like looking for trouble." Gen Athit said that he had no ambition to become prime minister. He is happy with the post of army chief and supreme commander, whose duty is to defend the country and support the government. He would accept the premiership only if the country fell into chaos because of riots, threats to national independence, or political confusion caused by unscrupulous politicians. He would consider it if requested by the people. He also said that the army would withdraw its charges against Deputy House Speaker Piyanat Watcharaphan if the MP withdrew his. Gen Athit had never said this in Thailand.

His meeting with the Thai in the United States must have helped to improve his image, another political benefit for him in addition to the political and military gain from his meeting with high-level U.S. military leaders during his trip.

Amidst the political instability experienced by the Prem government in the past 6 months, Gen Athit Kamlang-ek's trip to the United States has political as well as military significance for him, which will certainly have a bearing on the political and military future of Thailand. Maybe Gen Athit does not have to wait until 1987.

ESD: 4207/49

ATHIT DISCUSSES BORDERS, DEVALUATION, U.S. TRIP

BK231338 Bangkok 1st Army Division Radio in Thai 2300 GMT 22 Nov 84

[Interview with Supreme Commander General Athit Kamlang-ek on the "Army Meets the People" program; given to unidentified interviewer--recorded]

[Excerpts] [Interviewer] I would like to begin with the questions right away as there are many topics for us. First in your capacity as supreme commander and army commander in chief, what can you tell us concerning our border situation?

[Athit] We have common borders with several countries, which are our neighbors. At present there are problems at those border areas with an impact on our country. As the nature of those problems varies from one border to another, I would like to talk about them case by case.

On the Burmese border, which is on our northern and western parts, there is fighting between the Burmese Army and the Karen rebels close to our western border. Anyway, the situation is less serious now as the Burmese troops have pulled out following heavy rainfalls that put them at a disadvantage with the Karen soldiers, who are more familiar with the terrain and the weather. Meanwhile, the Burmese troops are massing in preparation for launching operations against the rebels at two points--in the north, opposite Tak Province, and in the south, opposite Kanchanaburi Province. There is a trend for the Burmese troops to intensify mopping-up activities against the Karen rebels in the coming dry season. We can expect, in that circumstance, repercussions from the Burmese border fighting as well as a refugee influx on the border. Our border area may be hit by stray projectiles fired from Burma. Our border villagers are thus exposed to danger, and we have, therefore, taken precautionary measures. We have instructed our border people to dig shelters for their protection, for example.

Now on the border provinces close to Kampuchea, you must already have learned from reports by the mass media about the situation there. I would like to report to you that lately the Vietnam-Heng Samrin forces have recruited Kampuchean civilians from the rear to repair their supply routes leading toward the Thai-Kampuchean border as the roads had been damaged during the past rainy season. They have also moved fresh forces and materiel, including heavy weapons, into the area opposite Prachin Buri Province. Shortly after that, there was a

report about mopping-up operations against Khieu Samphan's units and about ambushes and harassment launched by the resistance forces against the Vietnamese side. Vietnam retaliated by using heavy weapons and fighting ensued. As you know, on 5 November a unit of the Vietnamese-Heng Samrin forces engaged in operations near Surin Province resulting in our Border Patrol Police outpost being hit. Anyway, we have retaken our terrain. We lost several soldiers and policemen killed in that incident.

Then on 18 November, about three to four Vietnamese battalions attacked the base of the Son Sann faction of the Kampuchean Coalition Government at Nong Chan encampment. Please do not confuse this with Ban Nong Chan. Nong Chan encampment is not in Thailand. It is 3 km southeast of Ban Nong Chan, or about 1 km from the Thai border. Some people misunderstood this, thinking that Ban Nong Chan had been attacked.

[Interviewer] In short, you want to stress here that Nong Chan encampment is not in Thai territory, don't you?

[Achit] Yes. Nong Chan encampment is outside Thailand. The fighting has been going on. Vietnam fired artillery rounds in the attack. Kampuchean civilians living in the encampment under Son San were wounded and fled into Thailand for shelter. The fighting has been going on until now. Vietnam fired artillery as well as grenade launchers. As a result, our border areas was hit by stray shells, but there were no injuries reported. Our burapha force has been instructed to be on the alert to be ready for any kind of emergency.

On 19 November at about 1300 [0600 GMT], Vietnamese forces that had moved from Preav village, Poipet District, into an area about 2 km from Yeang Dangkum village attacked, with support from tanks, the resistance forces of Son Sann at Nong Chan encampment. Son Sann's base has fallen but Son Sann's forces kept up resistance and attempted to launch counteroffensives through ambushes as well as attacks. On 20 November at about 0900 [0200 GMT], Vietnamese reinforcements tried to capture an area inside Thailand north of Border Marker No 48 in Ta Phraya District. Fighting is still going on between a unit of Son Sann forces and Vietnamese forces at the area between Border Markers No 47 and 48 opposite Ta Phraya District. But this is not inside Thailand. Vietnam has been sending in reinforcements all the time. During the clashes with the Vietnamese, the Son Sann resistance forces captured one Vietnamese soldier. Heavy fighting was reported. The Kampuchean resistance forces suffered about 30 casualties, including about 4 killed. Vietnam kept sending reinforcements to the border area, including artillery pieces. On 20 November at about 1100 [0400 GMT], a number of Vietnamese forces clashed with the Son Sann forces. The Vietnamese forces were pulling out but met with counteroffensives and ambushes from the resistance forces. Fighting is going on. This is the latest report on the situation at the border. Thailand has moved the refugees fleeing for shelter from the firing area. As a result of the fighting, a large number of bullets have hit the Thai border area about 500 to 600 meters below the irrigation ditch, but there were no injuries. Fighting between the Vietnamese and the Khmer resistance forces continued with each side taking turns launching offensives. This has affected our border line. Thai authorities and UN

officials have evacuated the civilians who fled from Nong Chan encampment from the border area and grouped them together at Ban Ang Sila. That is the situation at the Thai-Kampuchean border. I would like to offer assurances that our forces, especially the Burapha force, have been keeping a close watch at the border all the time. We are ready to keep the situation under control, and we will prevent any violation of our sovereignty. The people should not be unduly worried.

Concerning the situation at the border close to Laos, there has been sporadic firing from Laos into Thailand. Thai villagers as well as members of the Mekong River Operation Unit have been hit.

[Interviewer] Where was it?

[Athit] In Nong Khai Province, in the northeast. To the north, we have adjusted the position of road construction security units outside the three disputed villages. Yet, Laos has continued sending troops to ambush the Thai outposts. Laos has also sent reinforcement to Paklai village in Sayaboury regularly. This shows that Laos has not given up its plan of ambushes against us despite the fact that we have moved our soldiers from the three disputed villages. I have forwarded the matter to the Foreign Ministry to lodge a protest in accordance with political processes. The dispute over the three border villages is not over. We still have to conduct negotiations with Laos. Thailand tried to avoid confrontation in order to make it possible for peaceful negotiations to be held. If it is proven that the villages belong to Thailand, we will have to take control of them. But if it is proven that the villages belong to Laos, we will have no objection. We have so far been trying to avoid confrontation. We have adjusted the course of road construction away from the three disputed villages. We have also moved the security forces from the three villages to guard the adjusted course of the road construction.

That is the situation at the border areas close to our three neighbors. Now, concerning the southern border close to Malaysia, there is no negative impact from that border as Thailand and Malaysia have entertained friendly relations and have coordinated operations. Well, that is a summary of the situation at the border. I would like to assure listeners that we have done our best--the military, police and civilian forces at the border have done their best--to protect the areas, and the people should have no worry.

[Interviewer] Now may I turn to an economic issue? People would like me to ask you what you think about the injury [aksep] of the baht.

[Athit] Yes, this is the first time that I have ever heard of an injury to money. In fact, money is in the bank or in our pocket and should not be injured unless we injure it.

Well, it had a considerable effect both on the armed forces and the Telephone Organization. I am trying to find ways to solve the problem and to ensure smooth operations for both agencies. As we are in charge of running the operation, we have to see how to overcome all obstacles. This is the problem faced by the executive. I have been thinking it over and over in order to find

the best solutions. This will take time. I have called a meeting at the Telephone Organization to discuss the impact of the baht devaluation. The impact is great as we have to import equipment and we need foreign currencies. According to the contracts signed, we have to pay for the goods once the shipments have arrived. As the contracts were signed in foreign currencies, the cost of the goods in baht is higher now. As our budget has been fixed, we now have to look at ways to find more money for the budget. It is likely that the Telephone Organization will have to find an estimated 9 billion baht within the next 5 years to cope with the impact from the baht devaluation. This estimate is based on current inflation without taking into consideration future inflation. If inflation is higher, we will certainly need more than that.

The impact is more serious on our armed forces. You already know, the budget for the armed forces has been set since the beginning of the fiscal year--that is before the devaluation. Now that the baht has been devalued, where should we find more money to make up the shortfall? This is our problem. We are making a study in order to reorganize the budget plan. We must cut spending in certain areas in order to add to some others that are necessary. We are trying to work out ways to lessen all negative impact to the minimum. That concerns the operation of agencies under our responsibility. The impact is serious.

Now, speaking about effects on private individuals who are our subordinates, I believe they will certainly have to feel the impact, especially if the authorities cannot effectively control price inflation. As you know, government officials do not get wage or salary adjustments as others do. We have to manage to cope with inflation. This is the problem both for now and the future.

[Interviewer] Your television program on 7 November really captured the feelings of the people. Whether in the military or not, they all had a feeling of satisfaction. Now they would like to know what your next move will be.

[Athit] I spoke on television that day because I would like to have concerned authorities realize the feelings of those who are responsible for operation of administrative agencies. I would like to know what measures will be taken to lessen the impact of the devaluation. We must speak out, based on the principle of correctness. In addition, you must understand that the soldiers are very close to the general people. We are aware of the hardships of the people of all walks of life. We realize that they must be affected. The impact on those people is tantamount to an impact on the country and on the national economy. We therefore had to speak out. We must make concerned authorities aware of the problems and to find measures to offset them as soon as possible. "We must try to find measures to remedy the situation resulting from the baht devaluation. We have to try. I have stressed that I did not mean to oppose the government or to contradict anyone through that program. In fact, I too realized that the government would not have made that decision if it was not necessary. Anyway, it would be better if I had been told in advance that our economic position is in bad shape and that we need to do this and that. As we are together, we should have been told so that we can plan together what we should buy or what we should not, like people living under the same roof. Well, it

does not matter that they did not tell us in advance. But we made our point too by telling them that the measure will have a negative impact and that something must be done to prevent adverse effects on the people as soon as possible and in the best way possible. I did not mean to be aggressive toward anyone. I only hoped to voice my concern sincerely. Now, after I had spoken out, the government listened to it and pledged to try to solve the problem. I have been given an assurance from the government. I know that we must give some time to the government. The problem of money is a delicate one. The government must be given some time to find and to adopt measures to alleviate the problems. Some people may ask me why I have not continued what I had already started. I would like to answer to you like this: The monetary issue is of a delicate nature. As we have talked with each other and have reached an understanding, it is better for us to cooperate in finding measures to solve the problems and correct the situation.

[Interviewer] I have a short question. Was your trip to America for the purpose of performing the Krathin [robe presentation to monks] ceremony or launching criticism against previous remarks of someone?

[Athit] I have read articles in some papers and felt that the writers were using their imaginations rather wildly. They did not know what activities took place and just spread falsehoods to the people and misled them. They claimed that my Krathin trip was politically motivated and so forth, which is unfair and totally lacks good etiquette. It would have been better to ask me what took place before writing about it. I wonder if they did not seek facts from me because they feared that they would not be able to collect their writing fees or that the papers would not sell. It could be both reasons.

I want to state that I went as the result of an invitation by the commander in chief, Pacific [CINCPAC] who is responsible for Asia. Thailand is part of his security responsibilities. I was an official guest on the trip to Hawaii. I participated in briefings on the security situation of our country and as in exchange we were given a briefing on the situation in their responsibility. This greatly benefited our military.

I then went to Los Angeles because I had accepted the chairmanship of the lay side of the Krathin for a monastery there. Proceeds from that event were given to build a Sunday school for children of the approximately 100,000 Thai people in Los Angeles to teach them about Thailand so they will not forget their country and Thai identity. The supreme patriarch was to act as chairman on the clerical side of the Krathin but he could not go because he became ill.

My trip to Los Angeles was very pleasant because of the unprecedented number of Thai people that gathered there. As I walked around the ceremony grounds, I could choose food from any region of Thailand. Every aspect of Thai identity could be seen there. I think this was a very proud moment and the trip was well worth it.

I was asked to meet with the Thai people there because it was my first trip there. During the meeting I informed them that I would not make a speech but would answer questions anyone cared to ask. They submitted questions to me on

slips of paper, and I answered them with the facts that I knew. I did not say anything that would cause damage to anyone in particular. What I said were facts and views of the people in general. For this reason, I want to say that my trip was not politically motivated, but was intended as participation in a religious event. However, a meeting ensued with Thai people there. They felt that my presence was useful, and I had to talk to them as appropriate.

[Interviewer, interrupting] You had to answer their questions.

[Athit] Yes. I could not just speak to them if I were not asked. However, the people in Thailand who wrote and talked about my remarks in Los Angeles did not hear what I said there. What they wrote about or commented on was not based on facts. I think this is not right and does not show courage on their part. It would have been better if they had asked me what they wanted to know. I like the type of person who does that.

[Interviewer] So you wish to point out that you went to America in the capacity of supreme commander and army commander on an official trip to CINCPAC headquarters, and since Los Angeles is only 5 hours away by air, you continued there to carry out a commitment that you had accepted some time ago. You did not intend to go there to speak about political subjects.

[Athit] That is right. Actually I did not want [to] say anything at all.

[Interviewer] You did not make a speech, but only answered questions as asked.

CSO: 4207/49

JOINT AIR EXERCISE WITH SINGAPORE HELD 5-30 NOV

BK191240 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0000 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] Thailand and Singapore are holding a joint air exercise in Nakhon Ratchasima Province. The exercise, code-named 2d Air Thai-Sing 1984, is aimed at improving joint air operation efficiency and will continue until 30 November. Deputy Director of Operations of the Royal Thai Air Force Group Captain Amon Naeomali, who is director of the joint exercise between the Thai and Singapore air forces, announced to newsmen:

[Begin Amon recording] The Thai Air Force holds joint air operational exercises with friendly countries--especially those in ASEAN--annually, with each country taking turn to be the host. This is the second combined air exercise with Singapore. The First Air Wing in Nakhon Ratchasima has been assigned the responsibility of arranging facilities for the training which is aimed at enabling the air forces of both countries to coordinate air operations in case of future emergency. This year, new targets have been laid for the training in order to improve efficiency and enhance experience in combined air operation for officials. A number of Thai and Singapore air force men are involved in the current training from 5 to 30 November. Singapore officials have already arrived at the First Air Wing in Nakhon Ratchasima for the training.

The closing ceremony for the training will be held on 27 November at the First Air Wing in Nakhon Ratchasima. Air Force Commander in Chief Air Chief Marshal Praphan Thupatemi and Singapore Deputy Air Force Commander Group Captain (Michael Teoh Eng Seng) will preside over the ceremony. In conclusion, the Air Thai-Sing combined exercise is aimed at improving efficiency of air force men of the two countries in air operation as well as at strengthening the friendly relations between the air forces of the two countries. [End recording]

CSO: 4207/49

THAILAND

RTN CHIEF DISCOUNTS USSR NAVAL BUILDUP AT CAM RANH BAY

Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 26 Oct 84 pp 1, 12

[Text] The Navy commander says that the strengthening of the naval base at Cam Ranh Bay by the Soviets will have an impact on Thailand, but not much because we are still not in a war situation. He affirmed that robberies and boat refugees are decreasing.

Adm Nippon Sirithon, navy commander, gave an interview in the afternoon of 25 October at Wat Buppharamwonwihan while in his capacity as chairman of a gift-giving ceremony to monks on behalf of the Navy. He said that the fact that the USSR is strengthening its naval base at Cam Ranh Bay in Vietnam will have an impact on the countries surrounding the South China Sea or the Pacific Basin. However, for Thailand, this causes no problems.

Admiral Nippon said that at the moment there is still not much of an impact because we are not in a tense situation or a war situation. At this time we are sending out ships and aircraft on patrol to prevent them from entering our territorial waters.

He then said that in normal times, the Soviets routinely gather intelligence, but they have not come close to our territory because radar waves could be picked up at long distances. The RTN is coordinating with the U.S. 7th Fleet. Aside from this, the Thai fishing fleet, the 7th largest in the world, has many ships equipped with radios and is reporting information to the RTN.

Reporters asked how the RTN was helping the Thai fishermen who had been arrested. Admiral Nippon revealed that the RTN had provided training in fishing and security matters, warning them not to go into other countries' territorial waters. But when this happened, and they were arrested, it was the Foreign Ministry's affair and that the government would help out. Concerning robberies and boat refugees, there has been a 30 percent decrease. On this matter, the UNHCR has worked with the Ministry of the Interior to take responsibility for this and the RTN only steps in to help out.

CSO: 4207/48

JURIST DISCUSSES LESE MAJESTY OFFENSE

Bangkok LAK THAI in Thai 27 Sep 84 pp 24-27

[Interview with Banyat Suchiwa, president of the Supreme Court, about the rules governing lese majesty offenses; date and place not specified]

[Text] The arrest and prosecution on charges of lese majesty of Mr Sulak Siwarak, an intellectual who is recognized internationally, continues to attract the interest of the people both domestically and abroad. While the trial in the court of law proceeds slowly, human rights organizations both domestically and abroad continue their demand that no charge be made against Mr Sulak.

Lese majesty is a serious offense, with a considerably heavy penalty. But at the same time, it is difficult for the accused to be acquitted when the accused's acts are clearly critical of the monarchical institution. However, a sincere expression of views by well-meaning citizens is the right guaranteed by the constitution. It is, therefore, a rather difficult thing for ordinary people to make a judgment as to what kind of act is considered to be in the realm of lese majesty. Frequently, the people wonder if there can be no conversation in a manner critical of the monarchy at all, whether it is a crime to talk about the monarchy, and how should one talk about the monarchy so that it is not a crime. Sometimes people make some comments without clearly intending that such comments are in reference to the monarchy, but the police authorities are able to interpret them as being a negative allusion to the monarchy, and the court as a result has indicted many on that charge.

LAK THAI's interview with Mr Banyat Suchiwa, president of the Supreme Court, is intended in part to make clear the picture of the procedures in which the charge of lese majesty is considered, and in part to reveal the rules by which judges abide when making judgment on such an offense, so that this would become a knowledge for those interested in the affairs of the country and for thinkers and writers who like to express their opinions.

Supreme Court President Banyat Suchiwa's View on Lese Majesty

Biography: President of the Supreme Court (4th year and will retire in September this year.)

Began as a court clerk when 19 years of age; later passed an examination to become a judge; sent to be a judge in Roi Et and Samut Sakhon Provinces respectively.

Won the Civil Commission's scholarship to study law in England; received a law degree from England. Later, became chief judge in Songkla Province; became secretary to the Supreme Court; chief of Appellate Court judges; undersecretary of the Ministry of Justice; chief of judges in the Supreme Court; vice president of the Supreme Court; and finally president of the Supreme Court.

[Question] With regard to lese majesty, what does the law say?

[Answer] It is provided in Article 112 of the Criminal Code that any person who commits lese majesty, is contemptuous of, or intends to harm the king, the queen and family members, or a person acting as a regent, shall be punished by being sentenced to 3 to 15 years in prison. The principle of this article is that committing lese majesty with the intention of defame, show contempt and crassness for, curse directly, show vengeance against, and threaten to kill the king, the queen, family members, and the regent--all these are elements constituting the offense outlined in Article 112.

To determine what is lese majesty, we must look at Article 326 of the General Law, which says that any person who makes slanderous remarks against another to a third person in such a way that that person is likely to be defamed, insulted, or discriminated against is committing a libel. If lese majesty is committed against any person referred to in Article 112, the person committing the offense is punished according to Article 112.

[Question] Who sees to it that there is a prosecution if there is a perpetration of this kind of offense?

[Answer] The overseers are the police because the police have the duty to investigate and oversee as to who has committed what offense. The police must oversee as to who has committed an offense that is within the realm of Article 112. On complaint has to be lodged. If the police know who has committed an offense according to Article 112, they can arrest and investigate that person right away.

[Question] In cases where the people know that lese majesty has been committed but do not report it to the police, is there any law that says whether the people are guilty or not?

[Answer] If the people do not report it to the police, the people have done no wrong. This is because ordinary people, in principle, have no duty to investigate if someone has committed an offense. It is the affair of the police. Except in some cases where the law says that if one sees a person committing an offense and one does not help--for example, if one sees a person drowning and one does not help--in that case one is guilty. Or in the case of a hit-and-run driver, the law says that if one sees the happening and one does not report it one is guilty. But if we are good citizens, when we see people committing lese majesty, we can report it to the police. This is because the police have a lot of work, and cannot oversee it all.

The police throughout the country must be responsible for this according to their chain of command.

[Question] What are the procedures in considering the charges of lese majesty?

[Answer] It depends on the penalty to be given. That is, in a trial there must be an investigation, and then the case is presented to the Prosecutors Department. Seeing that the case should be prosecuted, the prosecutors will send the case to trial. Lese majesty is punishable by sentences of between 3 and 15 years and must be sent to a criminal court. If it happens in the provinces, the case must be put on trial in the provincial courts, not in district courts. In the trial, the court must investigate the evidence and witnesses. In criminal cases, it is the duty of the plaintiff to conduct the investigation of the evidence and witnesses to ensure that the person being put on trial has indeed committed an offense. If the plaintiff cannot make an investigation to obtain clear evidence, the court must dismiss the case. This is because Article 227 of the Criminal Procedural Code provides that the judgment must be made when the person is clearly guilty--the person has indeed committed an offense. But if there are circumstances warranting doubt, or the reason is unclear, the case must be thrown out. Therefore, it is the duty of the plaintiff (the prosecutor) to conduct an investigation to ensure that the defense is clearly guilty. If he is unable to do so, the case must be dismissed.

And after the primary court passes its judgment, the party to the trial can appeal. If the appeal court upholds the judgment, the Criminal Procedural Code says that the case cannot be presented to the Supreme Court on the question of fact. The case is final. But if the primary court dismisses the case and lets the defendant free and the appeal court finds him guilty and sentences him to a prison term, then the defendant can appeal to the Supreme Court. But if both courts uphold the same judgment and together sentence the defendant to no more than 5 years--for example, the primary court sentences him to 2 years in prison, and the appeal court sentences him to 5 years in prison--then the case cannot be presented to the Supreme Court on the question of fact. The case will end at the court of appeals. But if the primary

court and the appellate court each sentences him to a prison term of more than 5 years, the case by all means can be presented to the Supreme Court. Like the 15 year prison term, for instance, the primary court sentences him to 6 years in prison, the appellate court sentences him to 6 years, then the case can be presented to the Supreme Court.

[Question] Must the process of prosecution of such a case be faster than other cases?

[Answer] That's up to the policy of each court. But I think that any case that is well publicized and grand, with great interest from the people, should be sped up. At present, the number of cases has almost doubled to 20,000. The number of judges is small, not enough to handle all the cases. Some cases are slow. But if the case is well-known and a lot of people are interested, its consideration should be sped up.

[Question] Meaning if the case attracts a lot of interest, it can cut in on other cases?

[Answer] Yes. Its consideration might be sped up. I mean there might be a special consideration every week or every 2 weeks. It could be expedited by considering it in advance. There could be hearing every Wednesday in every month. The case would be completed faster.

[Question] Who would make the stipulation that the case be expedited?

[Answer] This is up to the policy of the top authorities. With regard to the criminal court, for example, it is up to the director-general of the Criminal Judges Department. For the provincial courts, it is up to the provincial chief judge to direct that such and such case ought to be expedited a bit. The judge would be the one to direct the officials to speed up a case on a special basis.

[Question] If the minister or the political officials direct that the case be considered faster on a special basis, is that possible?

[Answer] Regarding the consideration of a case, the political officials cannot hasten it. This is up to the power of the court, whether we see fit that it should be accelerated or not. If it is proposed that the case be accelerated, and we do not agree that it should be, then we would not accelerate it. But for as long as I have been at the Supreme Court, there have been no politicians who have urged that a case be accelerated. The Supreme Court has some cases, cases that are related to the prohibition on sending goods to be sold along the border area. The number of cases mounted. The military sent me a letter asking me to speed up the consideration of these cases on a special basis, because they have already seized the property. If the court should say that the property could not be seized, then it would be returned. But if it could be seized, then it could be auctioned off. This is because

some types of property can be damaged. So they asked that cases relating to these things be accelerated. If these types of cases come up, I consider them as special cases, and order payments right away. How other cases would be considered, that depends on the judgment of the court. The case of local printing shops, for example, I give them special consideration. This is because a lot of people are interested. If we are too slow they would be in difficulty, because some of them have already been suspended from official duty.

[Question] Between the case where there is a short cut and the case which proceeds according to the normal procedure, would the former be faster?

[Answer] It is not certain in the primary court. If it is a normal case, it depends on when the case is free to be considered. If there are a lot of cases and a lot of judges, the cases may be considered every month or every 1 and $\frac{1}{2}$ months. Therefore once a month or every 1 and $\frac{1}{2}$ months would make about nine times a year that the case is considered. But if the case is accelerated on a special basis, the consideration may take place every Wednesday of each week. It depends on the attorney; it depends on the plaintiff, on the defendant. It depends on the prosecutor--if he is free or not; it depends on the defendant, whether he is free. If all three parties are free, an appointment can be made, it may be made in advance for a whole week. In the 1-year time frame, the case may be taken up forty times and completed in 6 months, or it may be completed after twenty-four times. This is not definite. It depends on how much investigation they have. If there are a lot of evidence and witnesses, the investigation will take more time. If there are few witnesses, the investigation is faster. Some ordinary cases may be slow because there are causes for continued delay.

For urgent cases, if there are few pieces of evidence and few witnesses, they can be speedily completed in 2-3 months. If there are many witnesses--some 100, 200 witnesses--then it will take more time. But it is in the power of the court to determine what issue the witness to be investigated is related to, whether he is related to the issue already investigated. If an investigation has previously been made, there is no need for more investigation. That witness can be eliminated from the case. It depends on the judgment of the court.

[Question] In the case where there is an appeal, how will it be speeded up?

[Answer] It is being done today. But there are a great number of cases in court, while the number of judges does not increase. Usually, judges have to work until late in the evening.

In the appellate court, it takes on the average 6 months to 1 year for criminal cases. But for lese majesty, it could be especially speedier. As for the Supreme Court, it is about the length of time--maybe between 10 months and 1 and $\frac{1}{2}$ years, or thereabout. It is not that judges are

slow. For instance, when a case is brought up, the court officials would record them, and then sent them up one after another. That a case is slow is because some cases have been in the court for more than a year. A judge can really make a decision in a month, and the result is known. But the delay is due to cases piling up. Some cases are in the Supreme Court for only 3 months and they can be decided and taken away.

[Question] For lese majesty, how many judges will sit to make a decision?

[Answer] It is the same as ordinary cases. The primary court uses two judges. The appellate court uses two judges and three recorders. But the Supreme Court uses three judges.

[Question] If in cases where the judges have dissenting opinions, what do you do?

[Answer] It is written in the law that the majority of opinions shall be adhered to in the trial of criminal cases. If there is no majority, we may turn to the Director-General of the Judges Department, who has the power to read and examine the trial statements. Whatever his view, it will be held as a majority view and a decision is made accordingly. If it is a criminal court there is a director-general of the criminal court judges. If it is a provincial court, the chief of provincial judges has the power to read and examine the statements without having to sit in on the case. And when he makes a decision, it is considered an opinion of the majority. The person who will write up the decision has to consult with the chief judge of the respective court. The consultation may involve what to do if there is a dissenting view. If there is no majority--there are four judges in the court, say--if there is no majority, and there is a tie, half and half, it is written in the law that the side with unfavorable opinions must concede to the side with favorable opinions, making it the defendant's benefit.

[Question] Have you ever made a decision in a lese majesty case, Professor?

[Answer] No, I haven't.

[Question] The selection of judges to hear these cases.

[Answer] It is the function of superiors of each court. Usually, the judge who is the chief of the court will assign cases to his subordinates. They base the selection on the fact that the judge to be selected is knowledgeable, is partial and precise, honest and sincere. I think that is how the judges are selected. It may be that this judge is well-versed in cases such as these, and therefore the case is assigned to him. It is in the power of the director-general of the judges department. For example, for the many cases that I have, I assigned them to judges according to what the judges are good at.

[Question] According to the law, can there be a change of judges? Do judges feel they do not want to hear a lese majesty case?

[Answer] In principle, the judge who wants to withdraw from a case must have a reason. We give them a chance to withdraw. For instance, the law says if the judge is a relative or an employer of one or another party, he may ask to withdraw. Or if he witnessed the event, he must ask to withdraw himself from the case. If he does not withdraw himself, the other party to the case may submit a request to the court that one of the judges on the case has some interest in it and that there be a replacement of that judge. The court will make an investigation, and if the investigation is borne out, then the judge is replaced. But in practice, no judge will wait until there is a request and then make an investigation. If there is a request there will be a replacement of judge immediately--without waiting for an investigation. In fact, in this type of case there is hardly any request of this kind.

For the Supreme Court, if I assign statements to the judges and then find out after an examination of the statements that the defendant's attorney is a friend, the judges will return the statements and ask to withdraw themselves. This is because if they go ahead with the case there would only be a lot of criticism.

There are very few cases where the judges have to withdraw themselves. In a hundred cases, there would be only one case or half a case in which the judges ask to withdraw themselves.

[Question] How does the investigation of evidence and witnesses in a lese majesty case differ from an ordinary case.

[Answer] It is the same as an ordinary case. Whatever the law says what kind of case it is and how long the defendant can be detained, that is what the practice will be; except in a case where the accused is charged with being a communist, then the practice will follow the decree of the Revolutionary Party.

For an ordinary crime, the accused can be detained for no more than 84 days. This is in accordance with the Criminal Procedures Code, Article 87. There is no special procedure; the same procedure is used. During the time he is charged with lese majesty, the accused can be detained no more than 84 days. If the 84 days have passed, then he can no longer be detained. The court must issue an order to release him. There is an exception: during the investigation of such a case, if he is bailed out, then he does not have to be detained. If, however, he is to be detained, the investigation must be completed in 84 days.

[Question] There are many people who are not allowed to be bailed out in the lese majesty case; but some people, like Professor Sulak Siwarak, are permitted a bail. What considerations are taken into account regarding this?

[Answer] I can assure you that there is no court, whatever that court may be, that would take the individuality of each person into account. For detention pending the trial, it does not matter whether he is a professor or a military general--it is not taken into consideration. We think of the gravity of the crime, whether he should be detained or not; we think of the seriousness and the lightness of the charge, of the evidence, and of what the behavior of the accused is. When a bail is requested, the court must consider if the accused will escape. We cannot just use any principle as we please. The accused may not request a bail, and therefore we do not grant him a bail.

[Question] In the trial of the case, if there is a movement abroad to get the accused released--Professor Sulak Siwarak's case, for instance--would the judge listen to the outside voices in his consideration of the case?

[Answer] There would be no such consideration. As far as I know, when he was ordered released temporarily, there was no letter from abroad. But after he was released temporarily, there was then a letter of praise to us. In fact, we do not think of these things at all. The judges have been extremely well trained. Before becoming a judge--they cannot just suddenly become a judge--they have to be trained. Upon becoming a judge they are sent out to the provinces. I believe judges are strongly motivated people. Therefore, the problem of being distracted does not exist. We have decided many cases that are contrary to what the press has to say. If things are fifty-fifty, such as a case in which the evidence is on the line, then we have to let the accused go. Some people criticized that the court made the release because the court is receiving a bribe. The fact is those people believe the press. It may be that the police told the press there is strong evidence and indictment is certain. There are many cases where there is plenty of evidence to support the arrest, but the arrest can never be made--there are cases like that. It could be just the witness's account.

[Question] Is it necessarily the case that part of the judge's judgment is based on the account relating to his case, which he has read in the paper?

[Answer] Not necessarily. The account published in the press is not necessary to the trial. Judges are like ordinary people, they want to read newspaper, too. I, for example, have to read newspapers, or I would be too ignorant. We read in order to find out what the news is; what the economic situation of the country is. But in the trial of a case, we never brought a newspaper account in to consideration.

[Question] In a lese majesty case, is there any requirement which would say that there are too many pieces of evidence and too many people involved?

[Answer] It depends on the parties to the case. Some cases have only one witness, and there are only two people involved in the case. But some cases requires witnesses and evidence surrounding the circumstance; it is up to the investigator to bring them up. We must let them proceed accordingly. But if there is only one matter involved, we need only two or three witnesses, and that's enough. We have to ask them what those witnesses are to be investigated on. If they are to be investigated on similar matter, then it is up to the court to issue an order. There does not have to be any more investigation of evidence. We cannot impose any prohibition; but if there are too many repeated investigations, then the court has the power to order a reduction of the number of witnesses.

[Question] Regarding the interpretation of a lese majesty case, will the ordinary people's views be considered or are there any other reasons that say that it is a lese majesty?

[Answer] The question raised in the press--whether it is a lese majesty or not--is a legal question, for which there is no need for an investigation to find out its meaning, what it means. We know that a case like this has to be finally decided by a majority. If the majority decides to dismiss the case, the case is dismissed. But to determine the legality of the case, we must investigate to find out if this person has written so that he commits lese majesty. When other people read this, how do they feel. There must be an investigation to see if it fits Article 112. We combine the investigation with the writings and then determine if he violates the law. It is up to the plaintiff to conduct an investigation. For example, the case of "Lady Shatterley's Lover." When the book was published, the editor was arrested on charges of publishing a pornographic book. The plaintiff led an investigation of the witnesses. The defendant called the priests and nuns to the stand. The jury adopted a verdict of not guilty. The court has also made a judgment of not guilty. For matters like these it is up to the judge to make a decision.

[Question] Are there standardized guidelines that have been set down with regard to lese majesty? And how are they formulated?

[Answer] We use past Supreme Court decisions as a basis for judgment. But there are very few lese majesty cases that reach the Supreme Court. This is because lese majesty cases are finalized at the primary court level. Only the law makes an exception, or sometimes there is an apology and a compromise at the beginning. But for lese majesty cases, there can be no compromise. Ever since I became the president of the Supreme Court, and it is now 4 years, there have been no cases that reached the Supreme Court. They were decided at the primary court or the appeal court level. In the case of Police Major Anant Senakhan, for example, the primary court sentenced him to 3 years in prison. The appellate court upheld the decision. The case did not reach the Supreme Court. So there are very few cases that did.

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CSO: 4207/6

BRIEFS

CROWN PRINCE ACCOMPANIES PREM--Amidst problems besetting Bangkok as the strike by the state railway labor unions remained unsettled, Prime Minister General Prem Tinsulanon yesterday (16 November) left Bangkok for Sakon Nakhon Province. THAI RAT's correspondent reported from Sakon Nakhon that at 1130 His Royal Highness the Crown Prince left the 3d Infantry Regiment's Krit Siwara Camp in Muang District, Sakon Nakhon Province, for Bangkok. He piloted the F-5 jet fighter himself. According to the report, the crown prince was back in Sakon Nakhon again at about 1605. He flew back in a Boeing 737 of the Royal Flight to Krit Siwara Camp, Sakon Nakhon, accompanied by Prime Minister Gen Prem Tinsulanon. From the camp, the crown prince drove his cream-colored Mercedes Benz, with Gen Prem seated on his left-hand side, heading for Phuphan Palace. Answering newsmen's questions about the prime minister's trip to Sakon Nakhon, Deputy Prime Minister Phichai Rattakun said the prime minister was having a routine audience with the king. The prime minister has a monthly audience with the king to report on administrative matters. [Text] [Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai 17 Nov 84 pp 1, 7 BK]

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MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

HISTORY OF VPA ARMORED BRANCH REVIEWED

Hanoi TAP CHI QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese Sep 84 pp 33-41

[Article by Maj Gen Le Xuan Kien: "Twenty-Five Years of Maturization and Victory of the Armored Combat Arm"]

[Text] Twenty-five years ago, on 5 October 1959, the 202nd Tank Regiment, the first tank unit of the Vietnam People's Army, was formed because of the requirements of the revolutionary missions and the mission of building up the armed forces. It was the ancestral unit of today's Armored Combat Arm.

During the past 25 years, under the correct, wise leadership of the Party and with the all-out care of all the people, the all-out assistance of the armed forces branches and combat arms, and the effective aid of the nations in the socialist community, especially the Soviet Union, the Armored Combat Arm has continually developed with regard to both quantity and quality. The tank and armored troops won their first victory during the General Offensive and Uprising of the Spring of 1968 and participated in the Route 9-Southern Laos counteroffensive campaign in 1971, the offensive and uprising of 1972, and the miraculously rapid, overwhelming victory of the spring of 1975. Especially during the historic Ho Chi Minh campaign the tank and armored troops coordinated closely with the other armed forces branches and combat arms, quickly broke through the enemy's defense lines, and attacked and liberated Saigon-Gia Dinh. The tank-armored troops had the honor of being among the first to reach "Independence Palace" and raise the "Determined to Win" banner on its roof, at 1130 hours on 30 April 1975, and to accept the surrender of Duong Van Minh and his cohorts and bring to an end the neocolonial regime and lackey puppet government of the U.S. imperialists in the south of our country and create conditions for unifying the homeland. The tank-armored troops also participated in the fighting in the campaigns on the Laos battlefield, in the war to defend the homeland on the northern and southwestern borders, and especially in the offensive to liberate the land of "Pagodas and Temples" and save the Khmer people from the spectre of genocide by the reactionary clique of Pol Pot and Ieng Sari, lackeys of the Chinese expansionists and hegemonists. The tank-armored troops played the role of important assault forces for the ground forces and in a number of campaigns became, along with the infantry, the principal assault force, created the combat arm's glorious tradition of winning every battle it fights, and contributed to embellishing the heroic tradition of the Vietnamese people's armed forces. On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the combat arm I would like to present some lessons learned in the

development and combat of the tank troops in order to study the direction for building the tank-armored forces and meet the requirements of war to defend the homeland.

1. Adhere closely to the strategic plan, take the initiative in preparing forces and material-technical bases, and be prepared to meet the developmental requirements of revolutionary war.

Immediately after the victorious conclusion of the resistance war against the French colonialists, the task of building the armored combat arm was begun and in October 1959 the combat arm's first regiment was formed to meet the essential requirement of developing our army into a conventional, modern army with the necessary armed forces branches and combat arms. When the revolutionary war in the south developed from the defeat of "special warfare" to defeating the "limited war" waged by the U.S. imperialists and their puppets, in June 1965 the second tank regiment was formed to strengthen the armed forces in order to defend the north and guard against the war expanding, while step-by-step studies and preparations were made to send tanks to participate in the fighting in the south. In 1967 the first battalion of PT-76 amphibious tanks was sent to the Vinh Linh zone to fulfill a temporary border defense mission.

The revolutionary war in the south won increasingly greater victories. The U.S. imperialists continued to send their troops and those of their vassals to the south in hopes of squashing our people's resistance war. The development of the military struggle on a large scale became a necessity and it was essential to pose the question of coordinated combat arms fighting on the battlefield. The tank-armored branch gradually sent troops to the battlefield and built up its forces to fulfill that requirement. At the beginning of 1968 a company of the amphibious tank battalion was sent to reinforce the Central Highlands battlefield. In the spring of 1968 for the first time a tank battalion participated in the fighting, during the Khe Sanh Campaign, and in the course of coordinated combat arms battles took the Lang Vay and Ta May strongpoints, attained high combat effectiveness, created the combat arm's glorious tradition of "winning every battle," and created the premises for future development. In 1969 and 1970 many tank companies participated in the fighting on the northern Laos battlefield. In 1971 many tank battalions participated in the fighting during the Route 9-southern Laos Counteroffensive Campaign.

Between 1968 and 1971, on the basis of experimenting on the jungle-and-mountains battlefields we were able to make the initial affirmations regarding the use of tanks and armored vehicles in the Indochina theater. The tank-armored troops were steeled in actual combat and gained much valuable experience. In order to meet the development needs of the war all over the south and in the Laos theater, under the correct leadership of the Military Commission of the Party Central Committee and the guidance of General Staff the armored combat arm prepared to develop its forces on a larger scale and carried out studies under actual combat conditions in order to organize its first tank and mechanized infantry forces.

In 1972 the tank forces developed at a rather high rate both quantitatively and qualitatively. Many tank-armored units were sent to eastern Nam Bo, the Central Highlands, Military Region 5, and northern Laos and were used in a concentrated manner on the Tri-Thien, northern Central Highlands, and eastern Nam Bo fronts. New strategic reserve tank forces were also organized and built up, and both fulfilled the mission of defending the north and served as the basis on which to train tank crews, while also organizing tank units to send to the battlefields. In 1972 dozens of tank units and tank regiment cadre units were sent to the battlefields. Group 207 (the forerunner of the tank noncommissioned officer school), which was responsible for training the tank crews, was set up. A training group (the forerunner of the technical tank commander officers school) was formed to train officers to send to the battlefields. The tank-armored forces participating in the 1972 campaigns contributed positively to important victories on the battlefields and valuable experience was gained with regard to organizing and building forces and using tanks and armored vehicles in campaigns.

In order to prepare for the decisive offensive the tank-armored troops were developed on a larger scale, many brigades were added to the reserve tank forces, and the number of tank brigades and tanks of the corps in the southern theater and in Military Region 4 increased notably. However, in 1973 and 1974 the use of tanks and armored vehicles in activities opposing the enemy's land-grabbing in the liberated areas of the south was limited, in order to conserve forces and prepare for the strategic opportunity foreseen by the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee and the Military Commission of the Party Central Commission.

In the first part of 1975 the strategic opportunity arose. In order to win a decisive victory in the southern theater the tank-armored troops were prepared so that they could be sufficiently strong to, along with the forces of the other armed forces branches and combat arms, be urgently sent to the battlefields, in order to fulfill the win a decisive victory in the shortest possible time. Successive offensive campaigns require strong assault forces and a high rate of attack in order to fulfill their missions. Therefore, the role of the tank-armored troops is even more important. The tank-armored forces were used creatively in the course of campaigns with a high degree of concentration. The organizational form of "combined tank-infantry-artillery units" was closely integrated into the tactical and campaign formation and contributed positively to increasing our troops' rate of attack. These experiences were clearly manifested in the campaign which began the General Offensive and Uprising of the Spring of 1975 on the southern Central Highlands battlefield (the battle of Buon Ma Thuot) and in the historic Ho Chi Minh campaign, and were then developed and applied in the offensive campaign to liberate Kampuchea (January 1979).

The actual situation during the past 25 years has demonstrated that the Armored Combat Arm must always adhere closely to the strategic plan of the upper echelon, and on the basis of that plan fully foresee requirements of campaigns and battles in order to prepare the necessary material conditions for the development of forces and for bringing into play its greatest efforts and contributing to the common victory.

2. Organizing and building relatively complete tank-armored forces on an appropriate scale, one that is suitable to the battlefield conditions and our equipment.

The Armored Combat Arm is a technical combat arm which, along with the infantry, becomes the "principal assault force for taking objectives and mastering the battlefield under complicated terrain, weather, and climate conditions. In organizing tank-armored forces there must be both combat forces and back-up forces, and both support forces and organic infantry forces, in order to take and hold objectives in the course of campaigns. In the campaign formation tanks and armor are a combat arm which fights in accordance with a coordinated combat arms plan. Many tank-armored battles also take place in combined combat arms formations. But because the capabilities and effect of the weapons and technical equipment, as well as the development of military art, the tank-armored troops operate more and more with relative independence, in the spheres of both battles and campaigns. Therefore, the organization of tank-armored forces must be increasingly complete.

With regard to equipment, because we must rely on the aid of the Soviet Union and the other fraternal socialist countries there are as yet no conditions for resolving all equipment problems, ensuring that equipment is completely appropriate to the terrain conditions of each battlefield, or meeting the requirement of having complete equipment, in order to fully bring into play the power of weapons on tanks and armored vehicles. Under those conditions, we must study and apply appropriate general principles regarding the organization, equipment, and activity of the tank troops.

It is necessary to bring into play the strengths of people's war in resolving the problems of providing technical support and ensuring mobility. Especially, it is necessary to study the adjustment and improvement of equipment to enable equipment intended for use on one type of terrain to be used on another type of terrain; combine the use of highly capable tracked vehicles with the various kinds of wheeled vehicles in order to increase mobility; or seek ways to move tanks and armored vehicles under extremely difficult conditions, beyond the imagination of the enemy, who are accustomed to evaluating the operational capabilities of technical combat arms by purely technical calculations. The fighting method of the tank-armored troops must be extremely flexible and creative, on the basis of applying the military line of our Party and the military art of Vietnamese people's war. On the basis of the equipment and fighting method it is necessary to correctly resolve problems regarding the organization of tank-armored troops. Although they cannot yet be developed into a combined combat arm force as in completely modern armies, they include all necessary components and are relatively complete, so that they can fulfill all combat missions assigned them.

3. Create a good system of military and technical guidance of the tank-armored troops in the campaign and front organs and the mobile corps which include tank-armored forces.

The actual situation has demonstrated that in combat the armored organ (the armored director) plays a very important role in helping the combined combat arms commanders make correct and rational decisions regarding the use of tanks and armored vehicles and in ensuring that they operate well. Especially, under the conditions of the commanders of combined combat arms and the organs of campaigns, corps, etc., not yet having deep understanding of the tank-armored combat arm, it is even more important that the armored organs (armored directors), which are part of the campaign and corps staff organs, continually help the commanders guide the organization of forces, training, and combat mobility, and be concerned with technical repair and support.

According to their functions, the armored directors must be trained comprehensively. In addition to having good understanding of tanks and armor, the armored directors must also thoroughly understand combined combat arms and the relevant forces. The armored organs (armored directors) must truly develop their role and always fully understand the military line of the Party and Vietnamese military art, fully grasp the campaign and tactical intentions, and take the initiative in making recommendations to the commanders of combined combat arms regarding the most effective use of tanks and armored vehicles. At the same time, it is necessary to take the initiative in resolving problems regarding the table of organization, equipment, training, coordination of all aspects of ensuring mobility, coordination of combat, ensuring rear services and technical support, promptly correcting deficiencies and weaknesses regarding technical management, and contributing actively to raising the level of combat readiness and combat effectiveness of the tank and armored forces.

The actual situation of the recent anti-U.S. war demonstrated that when an armored organ is well constructed that unit usually uses its tanks and armored vehicles with the greatest effectiveness, at the right times, in the right places, and on appropriate scales, has flexible fighting methods, and maintains its equipment well. On the other hand, if an armored organ is not well constructed and the combined arms commander does not have much knowledge of technical combat arms, that usually leads to inability to use tanks and armored vehicles or failure to use them effectively.

4. The task of providing technical rear services must be meticulous and ample in order to build a combat arm which becomes continually larger and stronger and fights victoriously.

The task of providing technical and rear services support is extremely important in the development and combat of the tank-armored troops. If it does not receive adequate attention it will be impossible to bring into play the strength of a modern technical combat arm.

In the large campaigns of the anti-U.S. resistance war and during the southwestern border war, because the leadership and command echelons made correct decisions and the cadres and personnel of the technical-rear services sector had a strong sense of responsibility and good specialized-professional knowledge, the tank-armored units were maintained in correct accordance with the technical regulations, the issuing of thousands of tons of technical materials, ammunition, and POL was ensured, and damaged vehicles were inspected

and repaired rapidly and promptly, which contributed positively to creating favorable conditions for the tank-armored units to fight continually and over a long period of time and win increasingly greater victories. The organization of the feeding and quartering of troops, disease prevention, and treatment of wounded and ill soldiers by the tank-armored troops also has separate requirements. They must be cared for meticulously and in correct accordance with the requirements of maintaining temperature and properly treating wounds of tank-armored troops, which have special characteristics. It is necessary to promptly supplement and replace the vehicle crews and specialized technical cadres in order to create conditions for the tank-armored troops to be sufficiently strong to fight in urgent, fierce campaigns continually and over a long period of time.

Because the technical-rear services branches profoundly understand the decisions and intentions of the campaign and the missions and fighting methods of the tank-armored forces in order to draft complete and appropriate support plans, organize a system of support organs which are fully capable and have a strong sense of responsibility, and apply good measures in implementing support plans for the campaign.

The tank-armored cadres and men must be trained so that they can have the necessary knowledge and skills to provide their own rear services-technical support. They must know how to treat wounds and remove wounded soldiers from tanks.

Transportation must promptly send material-technical reinforcements to the right place at the right time for the units fulfilling combat missions, especially under the conditions of the army and the combat arm having insufficient transportation facilities. There must be rational transportation plans to fully exploit the capabilities of the existing transportation facilities (including modern facilities and primitive facilities) of the units, combined with the rational, highly effective use of the facilities provided by the state, the locality, and the upper echelon. In order to limit and reduce the loss and damage of equipment and material-technical facilities it is necessary to organize the transportation of the materials and equipment from the rear directly to the supplemented units.

In order to do a good job of providing technical support in campaigns and battles, the key matter is making meticulous preparations, organizing ample, accurate technical support, and stockpiling sufficient repair materiel and equipment, while also paying attention to training specialized technical cadres and personnel in sufficient numbers, with good technical skills, and with a strong sense of responsibility and a good fighting will. There must be education regarding the strict observance of the rules and stipulations regarding technical support. There must be strict struggle against arbitrary liberalism in carrying out the technical support rules and stipulations.

5. The entire combat arm must be mobilized to master technical equipment, with balance between the combat units and the schools.

The armored combat arm is a technical combat arm. Its equipment is essentially based on aid from the Soviet Union and the other fraternal nations. Most of our country's youths who enlist in the combat arm have technical skills. The weather and environmental conditions in our country are very disadvantageous for the maintenance of tanks and armored vehicles. Therefore, mastering equipment and technical facilities is an extremely important problem that must be posed and well resolved. In speaking of mastering equipment and technical facilities it is necessary to master all aspects, from maintenance to use, repair, and replacement. If tanks and armored vehicles are placed in depots and are not well maintained, even if mastership has been achieved vehicles will break down and be lost. In combat, if the people using tanks and armored vehicles have not mastered them and do not know how to use them or promptly repair them, then sometimes they will not play a positive role and the rate of attack not only cannot be increased but will be reduced.

In order to master equipment and technical facilities it was necessary to do a good job of training, both training in the units and training in the combat arm schools.

Along with the formation of combat units it was necessary to organize cadre teams to train vehicle crews and provide supplementary training for cadres in order to provide replacements, make up for combat losses, build new units, and create direct reserve sources for the rapid force development cycles. The training units developed step-by-step, from a small scale to a large scale. After the units trained vehicle crews training detachments were developed into joint training units to train vehicle crews and provide supplementary training for officers, then into groups for training vehicle crews and the various kinds of mechanics. Finally, there was formed a system of technical tank commander and tank noncommissioned officer schools. When the tank-armored forces developed at a more rapid and higher level, the strategic reserve tank regiments and brigades fulfilled combat missions, were prepared to fulfill strategic mobility missions, and fulfilled the missions of urgently training and building tank battalions, taking turns supplementing the front, and organizing new units. Thanks to such methods of organizing the training of officers and noncommissioned officers, the armored combat arm took the initiative in meeting the requirements regarding the building and development of tank-armored forces in the recent liberation war. No matter how urgent the circumstances the urgently created units mastered their equipment and used it well in combat.

Those lessons were learned in the course of development and combat of the armored combat arm. The entire combat arm is making all-out efforts to apply those experiences in new conditions.

At present, our country's revolution is fulfilling two strategic missions: successfully building and solidly defending the socialist Vietnamese homeland. The Chinese expansionists and hegemonists, in league with the U.S. imperialists, are waging a many-sided war of destruction and are prepared to wage a war of aggression against Vietnam on all scales.

Our people's war to defend the homeland takes place under all conditions, so the role of the tank troops and infantry is still to serve as the "principal

assault force of the ground forces" in campaigns by coordinated armed forces branches and combat arms. An objective fact is that in the important strategic areas the enemy troops are capable of highly concentrating manpower, weapons, and equipment to invade our country.

By means of the combined strength of people's war, fully understanding the offensive concept, and combining achieving mastery with taking the offensive and taking the offensive to achieve mastery, we must stop the enemy on the front line and not allow them to penetrate, in order to defend the accomplishments of the socialist revolution. Then many medium and large campaigns will be fought, one after another, beginning with the first phase of the revolution, in order to strike large annihilating blows against the enemy and create changes in the comparison of forces in our favor, so that we can win victories and advance to win complete victory in the war. The tank-armored troops, along with the infantry, will be responsible for extremely important missions in the large annihilating blows struck against the enemy.

In offensive and counteroffensive campaigns, depending on the actual situation and capabilities the tank-armored troops are both used to directly help the infantry divisions break through the defensive belts and areas with large concentrations of enemy troops, and serve as forces which are prepared to develop the attack in depth and create situations which help the campaign develop victoriously and annihilate large numbers of enemy troops.

In defensive campaigns the tank-armored troops and the other forces carry out counterattacks and attacks and stop the rapidly advancing offensive columns of the principal, dangerous enemy formations. At the same time, a small part may be used to reinforce the important strongpoints in order to strengthen the solidity of the key defensive zones.

War to defend the homeland, with its all-the-people, all-round, modern, and alliance nature, demands the continuous strengthening of the assault strength and mobility of the ground forces. Building the tank-armored troops so that they account for an increasingly larger ratio of the ground forces is an objective requirement in order to keep up with the new development of strategy, campaigns, and tactics.

On the basis of the military line of the Party, the special characteristics and requirements of modern combat, the plots and schemes of the enemy, and the great, effective assistance of the Soviet Union and the other fraternal socialist nations, and also on the basis of the actual economic-social situation, and terrain and climate conditions in our country, as well as the experience that has been gained by the tank-armored troops, the direction for building Vietnam's tank-armored forces in the new phase is to build strong standing forces, with forces on the front line which are sufficiently strong to retaliate against the attacks of the enemy troops, and with strong mobile forces of the military regions mobile corps, and strategic reserves of the High Command which are sufficiently strong to strike large annihilating blows against the enemy troops. On the basis of building strong standing forces, it is necessary to draft and implement modern wartime mobilization plans in order to be prepared to respond to all contingencies of war.

In order to attain that direction of building tank-armored forces we must build complete tank-armored forces which belong to the military regions and corps, and strategic reserve forces. On the basis of the requirements regarding the fighting methods of campaigns we must have both have strong forces to break through and fight large annihilating battles, or to stop the offensive columns of the enemy and hold ground strong mobile forces in order to develop campaigns at a high rate after breaking through the enemy's defensive positions, or forces which are equipped relatively strongly to carry out counterattacks and annihilate an important part of the principal, most dangerous offensive formations of the enemy. Therefore, there must be reserve tank-armored forces which are fully equipped, are mechanized, and are trained according to the requirements of modern war, in order to victoriously fulfill the important in-depth missions of the campaigns or in an important area of the campaign.

In addition to building the tank-armored forces of the standing army it is necessary to organize standing army cadre teams in the military regions to manage and provide supplementary training for the tank-armored officers and noncommissioned officers who have completed their active-duty military obligations to ensure the expansion of tank-armored forces in wartime.

In addition to strong standing forces there must be powerful reserve forces. Building the combat arm's reserve forces is an important requirement in order to both have forces for reinforcement and forces for expansion when war breaks out, while also economizing on manpower, training, and expenses. As the combat arm's reserve forces become increasingly large it is necessary to study methods for managing and training reserve forces in peacetime in order to mobilize and use them in wartime.

In building tank-armored forces it is necessary to build and perfect the combat arm's system of material-technical and repair support organizations. It is necessary to study and rationalize functions between the armored combat arm, the Technical General Department, and the relevant units with regard to technical support.

In order to increase capability to repair tanks and armored vehicles and ensure the rate and quality of repair, it is necessary to provide additional repair equipment of all kinds to the repair shops of the Technical General Department and the repair units of the military regions, the corps, and the armored combat arm. The repair units must have complete plans and both fixed and mobile equipment, in order to fulfill the requirements of the rear area and the front line in both peacetime and wartime. It is necessary to urgently study the organization of a number of military region repair shops and positively improve and supplement the equipment of the large bases in order to continually improve the quality of major repairs on tanks and armored vehicles. It is necessary to study the exploitation and use of all types of existing equipment of tanks and armored vehicles, while at the same time concentrating on providing materials and equipment which our national defense industry is capable of manufacturing and producing, in order to supplement, replace, and improve the effectiveness of the various kinds of equipment.

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MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

CLANDESTINE ABATTOIR, BOVINE SMUGGLING RING BUSTED

Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG in Vietnamese 18 Sep 84 p 2

/Article by Trang Quang Thinh: "When Nam Bo's Gang Falls Into the Dragnet of Law"/

/Text/ Meeting of Vespa Scooter and Ox Carts at Crossroad

It was 5:30 at dawn. The place was the Mui Tau Phu Lam crossroad. Suddenly, a Vespa scooter of the "Sprint" model with a quietly purring engine darted out of the heavy flow of traffic including Lambretta vehicles and motorized pedicabs which were scurrying with a deafening noise toward the Western Region Bus Station since 3 or 4 am. Unlike other motorcycles, the "Sprint" scooter with license tag No 585-2017 stopped right at the crossroad instead of heading for the bus station. The rider also had a strange appearance. His face looked young but was adorned with a beard as long as that of an old man. His long hair also reached down to his back. Whom was he waiting for and for what purpose?

A moment later, from the direction of the Western Bus Station was heard the jangle of two ox carts rolling toward the city. At a leisurely pace, four bit handsome bulls were pulling the empty carts, each with a flickering small oil lamp hanging underneath. Certainly, only ox carts which set out in the small hours could have lamps with so weak a light. Another odd thing: Any circumspect persons would notice that the two ox carts and the Vespa scooter should have made an appointment, for when the two ox carts pulled alongside, the Vespa rider kickstarted his engine, engaged first gear and drove slowly in front of the carts. On arrival at a large garage, the Vespa scooter suddenly revved up, dashed off and vanished while the two ox carts turned to the right. Afterward, the garage doors were closed and the place became silent again.

Only at noontime did neighbors see the four bulls walk majestically out of the garage. This time they no longer pulled the carts but were led by some people toward Mui Tau and, after a turn, onto a path paved with red stone, farther into a vacant field and finally quietly into a house adjacent to a garden densely grown with sugarcane.

Tipped off by many people, at 9 pm on that day, the municipal market management forces searched a house owned by a so-called Minh in the 13th Ward, 6th Precinct, and caught him redhanded. On the spot, there remained only two bewildered

bulls. Nearby were eight ox legs, two ox heads and a mass of ox bones and 250 kgs of dressed beef carefully hidden and scattered everywhere among the sugarcane clusters. How cautious the smugglers were! Instead of taking the front road, they carried beef away across the sugarcane plantation, using the p-th which crossed the ricefields....

From Nam Bo to Tu Choi

That is how the clandestine abattoir gang led by Nam Be Et alias Nam Bo fell into the dragnet of law. Nam Bo was precisely the rider of the "Sprint" model Vespa scooter. Formerly he rode a "Bridgestone" motorbike so that his friends nicknamed him Nam Be Et. By "threading his way" through illicit business activities for only 7 or 8 years, he has become a reputed gangleader in the great markets of the city. During this short period of time, he bought a Vespa scooter and a storied house and acquired many more chums.... Nam Bo made big money by exploiting consumers while the laboring people's livelihood was still beset with difficulties. While the laboring people were suffering from the rising price of meat, he rejoiced at each price hike. He took advantage of every event to raise the meat price. As a gangleader, he almost wielded a monopoly over many butcher's shops in the great markets and over many owners of beef-noodle-soup and beef-ball selling carts and could pressure them easily. Nam Bo used to tell his subordinates: "But for me, they would be finished. Therefore, let them not complain about anything."

Le Van Nam alias Nam Bo really commanded a group of subordinates and built up a well-organized network to take delivery of oxen, to select slaughter sites and to sell the product.

The delivery of oxen to Nam Bo was assigned to Tu Choi, a bovine smuggler well known all the way from Tay Ninh Province to the city /of Ho Chi Minh/. Though arrested and released many times, Tu Choi stubbornly stuck to his bovine smuggling profession and, together with Nam Bo, grew rich through this occupation. Oxen were smuggled in from Kampuchea, Trang Bang, Go Dau and even Cu Chi. Though bovines provided draft power for collectives, cooperatives and individual farmers, Tu Choi contrived to buy them through cajolery, thus undermining production and the collective undertaking system during its initial implementation in the rural areas. It appeared from Nam Bo's notebook that as many as 16 to 20 tons of beef were produced each month at one slaughter site. We are speaking of only one notebook for only one slaughter site. Tu Choi had a wife living in Tan Phu, Cau Tre, who set up a large shop to sell bamboos of various kinds. Whenever the oxen were brought near the city, Tu Choi and Nam Bo harnessed them to a bamboo-loaded cart to put on a legitimate appearance. After unloading the bamboos, they brought the oxen to the slaughter site. As for the cart, they put it on the rear section of a carefully shut heavy truck driven by Nam Dong who carried it to Tay Ninh where another couple of oxen would be harnessed to it. They would run the ox cart in both day and nighttime if the road was long. If bovine inspection stations existed on some sections of the road, they would run the cart only at night, taking detours across ricefields. They never hired people to drive ox carts from the departure to arrival point but changed drivers many times during the journey in order to keep secrecy about their business activities.

So far not all of the slaughter sites set up by Nam Bo have been discovered. Ba Bua's garage was the first, Minh's house the second and Council member Du's garden the third.... Many other sites were hired only temporarily by him. Under Nam Bo's command were also two other men called Nghia and Ho who resided in the Chu Y /Y letter/ Bridge area. These men were "specialists" in swiftly, quietly and smoothly slaughtering and skinning bovines and dressing meat and were wooed, bribed and enticed by him into the illegal business path.

Nam Bo rarely came to the slaughter site after pointing it out to Nghia and Ho. Instead, he drove away to tell motorized pedicab drivers to come to the slaughter site to take delivery of the meat. His plan was very meticulous. The following procedure was always applied: The ox cart entered house A, oxen were slaughtered in house B and beef came out from house C. Buyers of heads and innards had been previously notified by Nam Bo. For the sale of hides, there was a man called Sau Bieu in the Chu Y Bridge area. For the sale of beef of various grades, there were motorized pedicabs which brought it directly to Lam Hoa who resided at 300A, So Viet Nghe Tinh Street. Lam Ho's wife apparently retailed meat at the Ban Co market but actually sold meat on contract to her many clients who were beef dealers at other markets. For Lam Hoa and his wife, the "familiar" consumers also included the beef-noodle-soup and beef-ball selling carts in the Cach Mang Thang Tam-Vo Van Tan and Nguyen Hue areas....

Every 2 or 3 days, gangleader Nam Bo met dealer Tu Choi at his wife's house in Tan Phu to settle accounts. The remunerations which they paid to their subordinates--who considered them generous--actually represented only a negligible portion of their profit--one which was earned by cunning tricks, by acting merely as middlemen and even by raising prices without caring about the consequences. How much did they earn each day? According to data which surely do not yet fully reflect realities, Nam Bo earned about 10,000 dong each day just by making a few trips with his Vespa scooter. Of course, Tu Choi earned much more because he was a top interprovincial dealer.

As long as there remain people like Tu Choi and Nam Bo, how can the market, prices and life be stabilized? Beef is not the only problem. From beef to pork, fish and many other commodities, the Nam Be Et gang had a hand in successive price escalations.

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MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

YOUTH INDUCTION DIFFICULTIES IN MEKONG DELTA DISCUSSED

Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 24 Aug 84 p 3

[Text] The Military Region 9 Command recently held a conference on youth induction. Afterward, the military region drew experiences from the education and management of new recruits at training centers. On this occasion, QUAN DOI NHAN DAN reporter met with Maj Gen Nguyen Van Si and exchanged views with him on the induction of youths in the Mekong River delta. Following are the views exchanged between the major general and QUAN DOI NHAN DAN reporter:

[Question] We have heard that this year the induction of youths in the Mekong River delta has made an obvious progress. Will you please tell us about a few outstanding features of this progress.

[Answer] It is true that the various localities have made some noteworthy progress. The first outstanding feature is that all provinces have tried to deliver recruits in strict accordance with the quotas set by the state. I would like to emphasize "strict accordance with the quotas" because every province has managed to deliver the exact number of recruits without requiring any "mutual aid and support" as in the previous years.

We all know that the yearly induction of youths according to the law on military obligation must be carried out uniformly and strictly according to plan and to the quotas calculated and assigned by the state, that there must be neither shortage nor excess and that it is forbidden to make any increment or deduction at will. But we must admit that formerly some localities failed to implement this task strictly and that they were inclined to carry it out as if it were a "movement." Localities which had a tradition, favorable conditions and a strong impetus tried to surpass the quotas for recruits delivery while others failed to deliver them in sufficient numbers. Such a method of drafting and delivering recruits is no longer compatible with the new requirements and is contrary to the regular pattern.

The second outstanding feature is the fact that all localities have delivered recruits within the time limit fixed by the Council of Ministers. During the first-phase induction, the gap between the dates of recruits delivery by the

two quickest provinces (Ben Tre and Tien Giang) and by the remaining six provinces did not exceed 2 weeks. The second-phase induction has also been carried out urgently and all provinces and districts have tried to deliver recruits rapidly and neatly according to the deadlines. Such an achievement is commendable for, in the past years, a number of localities usually failed to deliver recruits within the fixed time limits, thus affecting the standing army building plan of the military region and of the entire army.

At a time when the nationwide large-scale grain procurement was in full swing and when it was urgently transported to the northern provinces, the drafting of a sufficient number of recruits and their timely delivery by the eight provinces in the military region represented a very great effort. Taking the lead were still Tien Giang and Ben Tre where leadership and guidance have become more intensive and methodical. Cua Long and the other provinces are also emulating and advancing equally.

All things considered more seriously, the recent step forward has not been really steady, however. For in certain provinces and districts, there still has been a discrepancy between the number of youths issued the draft notices and the number of officially delivered recruits and there also exists a notable difference between the number of delivered recruits and that of qualified ones at the training centers. This is precisely a shortcoming which we must find ways to overcome and resolve more satisfactorily in the future.

[Question] My dear Major General, does that mean that a current and fundamental question facing various localities in the military region is how to exercise leadership and guidance to better ensure both the number and qualifications of youth recruits and also to quickly reduce undesirable discrepancies?

[Answer] Quality is especially important but will become a realistic achievement only when the fulfillment of the youth induction quotas is associated with the obtainment of qualifications. In the Mekong River delta, there are characteristics which clearly influence the induction of youths and the qualifications of young draftees.

The first characteristic is the fact that when this densely populated delta was under their oppressive rule, the U.S.-puppet clique broadly implemented their military service system during a long period of time. Instances of forcible draft and dodging the military service are still leaving a rather deep impression among the people. Despite an intensive propaganda and education ever since we started applying the law on military obligation, a number of people are still harboring some complex and misunderstanding. Failing to realize clearly the good nature of our military obligation law, these people have not self-conscientiously fulfilled their legitimate citizen's duty to defend the fatherland.

The second characteristic is the fact that as a result of repeated mopping-up operations during the enemy's "pacification" campaign in this region, many villages and hamlets became empty base areas on the liberation day. Even after

9 years of building, the party organizations, administration and revolutionary mass organizations in certain areas are still weak. This has obviously reflected on the effectiveness of the youth conscription at the grassroots level.

After thoroughly understanding the strategic mission of defending the fatherland in the new situation as well as the special importance of the youth conscription and after clearly realizing the influential characteristics in recent years, many provinces and districts under the guidance of local party committees at various echelons have continuously striven to overcome numerous obstacles, to develop favorable conditions and to move forward to carry out ever more satisfactorily the yearly induction of youths according to law. Without a struggle process, without seriously drawing experiences and without concentrating on resolving important problems at the grassroots level, it would have been impossible to bring about such a change in action.

[Question] My dear Major General, please let us know about some achievements during this process.

[Answer] Certainly, it has been necessary to work uniformly, to coordinate all sectors closely under the centralized leadership of local party committees at various echelons according to plan and under the unified guidance of people's committees at various levels, and to do all jobs and take all steps systematically according to the high level's instructions and specifications. However, due to the afore-mentioned characteristics of the Mekong River delta, it is still necessary to make greater efforts and act more energetically than in other regions and to carry out propaganda and education regularly, intensively and extensively among the people to make them understand that the duty to defend the fatherland must be linked to the enforcement of the military obligation law. One must not do these things only when the time comes to recruit and deliver troops but must do them continuously and perseveringly. It is necessary to tell every cadre, party member, citizen and youth that they must never forget the inestimable sacrifices made by the whole country in several decades of struggle for national independence and liberation, that they must never forget the bloody lessons drawn from the war to defend the fatherland right in this southwest border region and that they must never forget the fact that the Pol Pot aggressors repeatedly massacred our people in the Vinh Te canal area, in Ha Tien...in this military region. In Ben Tre and Tien Giang where all levels have paid special attention and carried out very carefully the propaganda and education about both the duty to defend the fatherland and the law on military obligation, the induction of youths in these regions has been carried out under favorable conditions. To carry out propaganda and education about the duty to defend the fatherland, our comrades in Ben Tre, Tien Giang and Long Phu District (Hau Giang) have used all forums and all activities of mass organizations, cooperatives and production collectives and have even taken advantage of literary, artistic, physical education and sports activities. A prevalent custom among people in this delta area is to hold joyful, crowded evening gatherings of relatives and close neighbors; if present on such occasions, cadres or party members have managed to speak about the country's situation and the need for the people's children and younger brothers to go and defend the fatherland.

In the area of the eight delta provinces in the military region, there is an information, propaganda and broadcasting system with fairly strong means. It includes the Con Tho television station, the provincial broadcasting stations and newspapers, the literary and artistic magazines and the district news bulletins which are appearing in increasing numbers. Along with the progress made in production, the wired radio network is also being expanded vigorously in district seats, towns, villages and hamlets. Recently, the military region and the provincial military organs have cooperated with this information system in carrying out propaganda activities during several youth induction phases but this endeavor is still insufficient. In our opinion, the local press and broadcasting stations need and can devote more time and more relevant special article everyday and in every newspaper issue to the discussion of and propaganda for the duty to defend the fatherland, the implementation of the military obligation law and the good examples set by army men and their families. It is very necessary to present special articles in newspapers and broadcast programs regularly including questions and answers on the duty to defend the fatherland and on the military obligation law. Citing instances of satisfactory or unsatisfactory implementation, comparing them with the provisions of the law, putting questions and offering answers in order to resolve the people's misunderstandings will be a vivid and highly persuasive working method.

Some localities have suggested that it would be advisable to print booklets on the military obligation law and to distribute or sell at an affordable price one such book to each family or at least to each production solidarity team and production collective, thus enabling the people to easily understand, discuss and examine this topic, to make preparations for their youngsters whenever they reach the military draft age and, at the same time, to have a document at their disposal for use as a basis to follow up and supervise the implementation of the law by the local administration. I think that this is a very useful and constructive idea which is worth considering and should be reciprocated.

The second point I would like to discuss is the need to concentrate adequate leadership and guidance on the organization of people's debates on youth induction.

[Question] May we suggest that you deal lengthily with this topic because after investigating the actual situation recently, we have found that a number of localities merely held debates in a formalistic and perfunctory manner without attaching due importance.

[Answer] I can affirm that only by holding realistic debates can people in this delta region quickly obliterate their inner inhibitions, understand more clearly the good nature of our military obligation law and distinguish clearly the difference between our military obligation law and the military draft system of the U.S.-puppet clique. If the debates are well prepared and motivated and if the people boldly discuss and contribute their views and suggestions, such debates may become lively educational courses on the duty to defend the fatherland and the law on military obligation and may even be turned into gradual training courses on the exercise of the citizens' right to collective ownership. Because they live together, our people know very well each and

every entering youngster as well as his peculiar family situation. Therefore, they can make an accurate evaluation and examination and express realistic views to help the administration issue draft notices with equity and rationality. Properly organizing debates will also have the effect of enhancing the sense of responsibility of citizens, mass organizations, cooperatives and production collectives for the implementation of the army rear policy both at the time of the young recruits' departure for the army and during their active service and also on their return home after fulfilling their military obligation. Because these delta people possess a long-standing revolutionary tradition and behave with loyalty, sincerity, frankness, open-mindedness and actual love, the holding of democratic debates enabling them to recommend youths for the military service and fulfillment of the sacred duty to defend the fatherland will surely meet with their approval and support. Even if basic party organizations are still weak, the satisfactory organization of people's debates will enable the leadership to motivate the people, to satisfactorily resolve actual impediments and to foster solidarity and identity of views among the people during the youth induction phases.

If accurate and uniform physical checkup criteria are applied through the coordination of various provinces and districts with the new recruits' training centers, if arrangements are made for the people to hold realistic debates and if draft notices are served to the right draftees in all to ensure the specified qualifications, the youths will become enthusiastic and have peace of mind, everyone called up for military service will certainly go and join the army and the unwanted numerical discrepancies will be reduced. Experiences drawn from pilot districts in the provinces have demonstrated that the better the debates are organized, the more the people will believe in the local party organization and administration and the latter two will, in turn, understand and trust the people all the more and establish closer contact with them. If the party organizations and administration at the grassroots level are still weak, various organs from the military region to the provincial and district echelons must entertain close relations with the grassroots level and help it properly organize people's debates and carefully carry out the procedures involved in the youth induction. In my opinion, the most suitable way would be to convene regular or enlarged conference of production collectives and to use them as debating units. Since the people in these collectives are closely related in their daily activities, share similar feelings, know each other very well and at the same time have a high sense of responsibility, they will help one another implement the army rear policy properly and continuously. In this delta area, production is developing strongly, production collectives and cooperatives are emerging in greater numbers and the people's living standard is being raised continuously. These are favorable conditions for the people to discuss ways to care for the livelihood of prospective army men's families so that the latter will positively motivate their children and younger brothers to join and build the army with peace of mind.

[Question] We wish that you further clarify the relationships between the people's debates and the exemplary implementation of the military obligation law by the families of cadres and party members.

[Answer] It is the same in every locality: Whether the people will express correct views and strictly implement the law depends in a large measure on the examples set by cadres and party members and on whether the words and deeds of these persons will match up. If during the debates the cadres and party members personally and correctly confirm the military obligation of their children and younger brothers, the people will then do likewise and will exchange views conformable to sentiments and reason. Though party organizations in many villages in this region are still thinly scattered and have only a small number of party members, practical facts have shown that if these party members really take the lead, the leadership and guidance for youth induction will nonetheless prove highly effective. During my visit to Long Phu District, I saw very clearly that almost all party members had set good examples by urging their children and younger brothers to join the army according to law so that a fairly good understanding was achieved during the people's debates in this district. In Dai Ngai Village, the party committee secretary enthusiastically urged his two sons to join the army so that what he said to the villagers had a great weight and persuasive effect. Every year this village has completed the youth induction quickly and neatly.

It can be said that characteristic difficulties will continue to greatly affect the induction of youths in this region but the Mekong River delta is the land of concerted uprising where many localities possess an indomitable revolutionary tradition. Today, nearly 10 years after the liberation day, the young generation growing up under the new regime has become more numerous; if party organizations, the administration and mass organizations at various levels clearly determine that youth induction is one of the primarily important tasks with a long-term strategic significance and if they resolutely invest energy in providing a leadership and guidance commensurate with the importance of this task, it is certain that this numerous young generation will properly develop the struggle tradition inherited from their forefathers, fathers and elder brothers and sisters and that they will strictly implement the law on military obligation and readily accept hardships and join the army in response to the yearly induction order so as to fulfill their duty to defend the fatherland. The whole military region is trying to narrow down negative aspects, to reduce shortcomings and to pave the way for steadier steps forward in the execution of this task in the forthcoming years.

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MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

SECOND PHASE INDUCTION IN SOUTHERN LOCALITIES COMPLETED

Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 22 Aug 84 p 1

[Text! VNA--As of 15 August, all precincts and districts in Ho Chi Minh City have fulfilled both the second-phase and yearly plans for youth induction in 1984 from both the quantitative and qualitative points of view and within the time limits fixed for the recruits delivery. Because adequate preparations had been made for this recruitment phase, all precincts and districts have organized a quick and complete delivery of recruits according to these plans and have created an enthusiastic atmosphere among both the outgoing recruits and the people staying behind.

In the Third Precinct, many of the total 290 youths inducted in the second phase of 1984 had been admitted into the Youth Union membership before joining the army. Prior to their departure, the youths coming from the 10th and 11th Precincts and selected for the induction had been taught once again the glorious tradition of the army and had pledged to emulate in rendering a meritorious service while in the army. After experiencing numerous recruitment difficulties in the past few years, the Fifth Precinct has satisfactorily fulfilled the assigned plan during the current induction phase.

The districts, municipality and cities in Quang Nam-Da Nang Province have actively prepared for the second-phase youth induction in 1984. Together with the mass organizations, Military Draft Councils at various levels have organized a study of the military obligation law for youths and helped them clearly understand their responsibility and duty to protect the fatherland. To date, all localities in the province have completed the issuance of second-phase draft notices to the citizens concerned; these notices have been issued on schedule to the right recipients to allow these youths enough time to take a rest, visit their relatives and arrange and hand over their personal affairs so as to have peace of mind before joining the army. While motivating the youths, mass organizations in various districts and in the municipality and cities are preparing gifts to be presented as keepsakes to youth recruits prior to their departure.

As of 15 August, Tien Giang Province has sent off 2,700 youths selected for the second induction phase of 1984, thus fulfilling the yearly plan norms. Chau Thanh District (My Tho City) has quickly and neatly fulfilled the yearly induction plan norms. Cho Gao District has overfulfilled the yearly recruits delivery plan by 15 percent and has thus taken the lead among all districts in the province.

This year, the district Military Draft Council has carefully examined the situation of prospective recruits, promptly drawn up a tentative list of recruits and presented it to the masses for consultation in order to ensure justice, democracy and rationality and develop the people's collective mastery and the activist role of cadres' and party members' families. The name list of selected youths has been published before the inductees' departure date--even 45 days in advance in 85 percent of the total number of villages in the province.

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MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

APPROPRIATE TRAINING OF COASTAL MILITIA, SELF DEFENSE FORCES URGED

Hanoi QCAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 24 Aug 84 pp 1, 4

[Editorial: "Training Militia and Self-Defense Forces in Coastal Areas and on Islands"]

[Text] Combat training plays an especially important role in the combat ability and readiness of the people's armed forces. The more closely training is adapted to the combat mission of each type of forces and to the characteristics of each region, the higher the combat readiness and strength of these forces will be.

Since the militia and self-defense forces in the coastal areas and on islands perform their mission under complex terrain conditions, a training method compatible with combat realities is a permanent requirement throughout the training process. Our country has over 3,000 kms of coastline and innumerable islands from the Gulf of Tonkin to the southwestern sea areas of the fatherland. These coastal areas and islands are strategic positions for the maintenance of public order and security and are also infiltration routes for the enemy from abroad. The militia and self-defense forces stationed on these positions play a highly important role and have to perform a difficult and complex mission. The defense and combat requirements also vary with each sea area and island. Therefore, to train the militia and self-defense forces in coastal areas and on islands according to the realities of their combat mission in order to meet the activity and combat requirements of each locality, the primary decision factor is for party committees at various echelons, local military organs and militia and self-defense commanding cadres to deeply understand the characteristics, position and strategic role of the sea area and islands within their local territory and to determine a suitable fighting formula conformable to the method of waging a local people's war.

To be effective, the combat activities of the militia and self-defense forces in coastal areas and on islands are usually carried out by small detachments. For this reason, importance must be attached to the basic training of each individual and each group of ships and boats to enable them skillfully to use all types of weapons and means with which they are equipped. Since the enemy will usually infiltrate the sea areas and islands for sabotage purposes whenever the weather conditions are complex, it is constantly necessary to train the militia and self-defense forces in such a way as to enable them to adapt

to all weather characteristics. While being trained for independent fighting, the militia and self-defense forces in sea areas and on islands must also be trained to fight in conjunction with border defense troops, people's public security forces and naval troops in order to detect, catch, detain and annihilate commandos, scouts and spies...Where conditions are favorable for the setting up of militia and self-defense naval flotillas or groups, training must be organized for both the components destined to fight and those having the duty to support combat activities. As the combat mission, requirements and activities vary with each component of these forces, so will the theme, program and duration of their training differ. Efforts must be concentrated first on training the combat forces, especially the mobile ones. During the training according to the basic program and simultaneously to concentrate on training specialized and technical elements such as those having the duty to carry out reconnaissance missions, to attack commando boats, to install barriers, to detect and destroy water mines...

Experiences drawn from the training of militia and self-defense forces in the district of Hai Ninh (Quang Ninh), Hai Hau (Ha Nam Ninh), Hoa Vang (Quang Nam-Da Nang) and Hon Dat (Kien Giang) over the past few years have demonstrated that if the militia and self-defense forces in the coastal areas and on islands are trained according to the common theme and program designed for all types of forces, it will be impossible to increase their combat strength and effectiveness. The localities where the militia and self-defense forces have satisfactorily maintained order and security in the sea areas and on islands and have quickly detected and hunted down malefactors and neatly caught them are places where training has been adapted to combat realities, where training cadres have clearly understood the topographic characteristics of their own localities and positively included them in the training theme and where the training task has been constantly and closely coordinated with the duty to perform and protect production.

Closely relating the training of militia and self-defense forces in coastal areas and on islands to the realities of combat activities is providing a basis for increasing the on-the-spot combat ability and readiness of the local people's armed forces and enabling them to foil all enemy plots and acts designed to establish secret connections and carry out infiltration and sabotage against the sea areas and islands of our fatherland.

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MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

HANOI GOLD SMUGGLER SENTENCED TO PRISON, METHODS DESCRIBED

Hanoi DOC LAP in Vietnamese 3 Oct 84 p 7

[Article by Nguyen Tran Thiet: "The Line Has Been Cut; article concerns the confiscation of 166 ounces of gold at the address D3, No 14, Nguyen Khuyen"]

[Text] Aboard a jet aircraft that was about to land at the Noi Bai Airport, Le Van Hoa stretched, took a deep breath and looked all around. Over 40 years old, Hoa was breathing the air of Vietnam for the first time. He enjoyed the view and chatted with fellow countrymen. He was very happy. Hoa's parents had left their native land and gone to live in Laos. While he was growing up, there were many times that Hoa wanted to return and visit his relatives. In particular, he wanted to see for himself what changes had taken place in his homeland. But Hoa could not return for two reasons. First, his children were still too young. His wife was a very fertile woman and so before their first child was 3 years old, a second child had been born. Second, Hoa was poor. Even though he worked as a carpenter, he earned only enough to support his family. Hoa told his wife:

"Since the war, every family in the country has experienced difficulties. Thus, when we visit home, we cannot trouble the people concerning material things."

Listening to her husband, Hoa's wife became very frugal. Together, they managed to save a rather large sum of money. Hoa decided to purchase a bus ticket from Pakse to Vientiane, the capital of Laos. Hoa and his family stayed at a hotel. He asked people how he could purchase airplane tickets to Hanoi.

Now, Hoa stepped onto the ground at Hanoi airport. He went to the passenger counter with his tickets to collect his two suitcases. Sitting in front of the desk of a customs cadre, Hoa felt nervous. He answered the questions asked him:

"Is this your first trip here?"

"Yes."

"You were born in Laos and served in the Lao army. But yet you still retain Vietnamese nationality?"

"Sir, very few of the Vietnamese there want to change nationality."

"Have you brought along any commodities?"

"Yes, I have about 10 sweaters and jackets and about a dozen zippers that I brought along to give as presents and to obtain a little cash."

"Do you have any dollars?"

"I have \$4,000."

The customs official was friendly, perhaps because he saw that Hao had answered the questions honestly. He inspected the articles in the two suitcases, checked the \$4,000 in currency and wrote a certificate for Hao. Hao loaded his luggage on the bus. After arriving in Hanoi, the first thing that Hoa did was to go to the house at D3, No 14, Nguyen Khuyen. A man about 60 years old greeted Hoa. With a Quang Binn accent, he asked:

"Who are you looking for?"

"Sir, I am looking for Mr Tran Van Tuyen."

"I am Tuyen."

"Sir, I have just arrived from Vientiane. Miss Nguyen sent a letter to you."

The attitude of Tran Van Tuyen changed immediately.

"How did you meet my sister? Why did she give the letter to you? Please come in."

Hoa gave the sealed letter to Tuyen. After Tuyen had read the letter, Hoa laid the money on the table.

"You are to accept the \$4,000 and the goods. Please check to see that everything is here as stated in the letter."

"Here, mutual trust is paramount. My sister trusted you and so do I. Should I write you a receipt?"

"That is not necessary, sir. In a few days, my wife will arrive. Miss Nguyen also asked us to bring you some presents."

"Thank you, Hoa."

After leaving Tuyen's house, Hoa began to breathe softly. He admired Nguyen's skill. In Vientiane, when Hoa had anxiously been trying to purchase an airplane ticket, Nguyen had come up to him. Speaking with a Quang Binh accent, she had said:

"Hello, Hoa."

"Who are you? How do you know my name?"

"I have lived in Pakse for a long time and so I know you quite well."

Nguyen had provided details about Hoa's house and the street where he lived and had even mentioned the color of his bicycle. Hoa had believed her immediately. In Vientiane, which was a strange place to him, suddenly meeting someone who knew him had been quite pleasant. Nguyen had said:

"I felt sorry for you seeing you run about here and there trying to buy an airplane ticket. I have a friend who sells tickets. Let me ask him to get you tickets for you and your family."

"Thank you, Miss Nguyen."

"It is nothing. I will ask a favor in return."

Tran Thi Nguyen had laughed as she spoke. She said that she had a brother in Hanoi named Tran Van Tuyen. She asked Hoa to take him some goods and money. Hoa had gasped:

"I would be very afraid to take along those things."

Nguyen had explained:

"Do not worry. I will put the items in your bags and put them on the airplane for you. You just hold on to this money. Just tell the customs officials that you are bringing the money into the country. If anyone causes any problems for you, I will take responsibility for the loss."

Seeing Hoa begin to waver, Tran Thi Nguyen had gone on the offensive: "I have a ticket. I had intended to fly to Hanoi but my mother is very ill. If you help me, I will give you this ticket."

"What about my wife and children?"

"Let me take care of that. I know that you are poor. My family is quite wealthy. Obtaining four tickets for you is nothing."

Le Van Hoa had hesitated just a moment. She had said that there would be nothing difficult about this. Her mother was sick and so she had to rely on him. And if she did not have to purchase the four tickets, he would have some extra money for his trip to Vietnam. But Hoa had said: "If customs officials seize the goods, I will not take responsibility." Nguyen had smiled:

"I accept full responsibility. This is your first trip to Vietnam. I have made many trips there and am familiar with everything."

Hoa had done everything as instructed by Nguyen. And he really did not have any problems. Hoa turned over the goods to Tuyen (Tuyen sold the goods for 128,000 dong) and had to wait only a few days before his family arrived.

Hoa's wife arrived right on schedule. Miss Nguyen sent another \$5,000 to Tuyen and did not forget to send Hoa a "tut thuoc 3 con 5" worth more than 2,000 dong. Both Hoa and his wife were very grateful to Nguyen, especially when they sold the goods given to them by Nguyen for more than 3,000 dong.

Twenty days later, while waiting for the airplane to return to Vientiane, Hoa was arrested by Vietnamese public security officials for smuggling gold. Hoa was stunned. He had never in his life been involved in gold smuggling and knew nothing about smuggling gold out of Vietnam. How could he send word to his wife? Hoa's wife and children had returned to Laos 5 days ahead of him. Hoa had stayed behind because he did not have a ticket; that was the truth. Vietnamese security officials had taken notice of Hoa and identified him as a gold smuggler. Hoa really did not understand any of this. He recounted everything that had taken place and did not forget to tell them about Tran Thi Nguyen's friends in Vientiane, that is, Tran Thi Lun and Miss Huong. Huong had given two people named Nguyen Van Thi and Nguyen \$10,000 to take to Vietnam.

In the witness stand, Tran Van Tuyen no longer looked so dignified. He kept his head down and looked around furtively. Haltingly, he responded to the questions put to him:

"How much money did you receive from Nguyen and Huang?"

"Your honor, in all, I received \$19,000 (which is the equivalent of 3 million dong). I received \$4,000 from Hoa and \$15,000 from Thi and Hoa's wife."

"When your house was searched, how much gold did the authorities seize?"

"I signed a statement admitting that there were 166.635 ounces of gold in the house." (At today's market rate, this is worth almost 30 million dong.)

"How much of this belonged to you?"

"I owned 73.9 ounces."

"To whom did the rest belong?"

"Mr Minh owned 92.7 ounces."

"Mr Tuyen, the court does not believe your testimony! Since the day you were arrested, you have constantly put the blame on a man named Minh. But you have not told us his full name or where he lives. Or if Minh is an expatriate Vietnamese who has returned to Vietnam, you have not told us in which hotel he is staying."

Tran Van Tuyen had no further argument to make. He was clever but not as clever as the public security officials. He had selected his daughter's wedding day to carry out the transaction. But as things progressed, it became impossible to do everything in time. He buried 73.9 ounces of gold beneath his house. He placed the rest in a double-bottom rattan basket. He wrapped

the 93 ounces of gold carefully and arranged it neatly in the basket. On top, he placed betel and incense like a person going to a ceremony. He then took the basket, whose contents were worth about 16 million dong, to a neighbor. It did not seem to have any material value. It just looked like something that a person would keep for its spiritual value.

According to the arrangements, on that day, a person attending the wedding of Tuyen's daughter was to bring Tuyen a letter from his "sister," Tran Thi Nguyen, and take the basket. But before that person arrived, Tuyen was arrested with the evidence. Tuyen pleaded innocent to smuggling gold and said that he was not involved in purchasing gold and smuggling it abroad. But he could not explain why he had such a large quantity of gold in his house. He could not explain why he had buried gold and placed gold in the basket. Also, he could not explain why he and his wife, two retired cadres, had four Rado Watches, a Paggio 103 motorcycle, a Honda 70 motorcycle, a Paggio bicycle, a cassette player and many other valuable articles. During the time that he was in jail, Tuyen tried to think of the addresses of all his relatives in Laos and Thailand who had sent gold to him at various times. Also, since 1978, Tuyen had purchased several "trees" each year. Tuyen said:

"Your honor, I admit to having hoarded gold illegally. But I did not engage in smuggling. Those 92.7 ounces of gold did not belong to me. If that gold had belonged to me, I would have buried it." Tran Van Tuyen cleverly tried to shift the blame to someone else while confessing to a lesser crime. He pleaded:

"I am old and do not have long to live. I ask the court to remember the good things that I have done. I participated in the resistance beginning in 1954. I have never been convicted or disciplined for any wrongdoing and so I ask you to be lenient."

The Hanoi People's court gave special attention to the contributions made by Tuyen, but it still concluded that he was guilty of two crimes:

Smuggling and hoarding contraband items.

Smuggling and illegally transporting contraband items abroad.

The court sentenced Tran Van Tuyen to 9 years in prison and confiscated all the property that he had obtained illegally. Le Van Hoa was given back his 10,000 dong (which had been confiscated when he was arrested) so that he could purchase an airplane ticket to Pakse. In his final words to the court, Hoa revealed his innermost thoughts:

"Because I failed to adhere to the law and was too eager to get four airplane tickets for a trip from Vientiane to Hanoi, I assisted gold smugglers. I will remember this very costly lesson my whole life."

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MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

BRIEFS

LINIMENT ADULTERATORS ARRESTED--For a long time, eucalyptus oil bearing the old "Dr Tin" trademark has been unavailable but so far oil adulterators have continued to dump clandestinely on the market--especially in the city suburbs and the provinces--imitation oil bottles which are similar to the old brand and calimed to be "stocks in hand" in order to deceive buyers. In reality, these oil bottles with the fake old trademark are illegal goods of very low quality. After a period of investigation and based on the people's discovery, the market management forces in the Sixth Precinct caught Ly Tich's household, 191 Lo Gom Road, in the act of counterfeiting eucalyptus oil and drew up a report on the case. The material evidence seized on the spot included 400 eucalyptus oil bottles as finished product, over 1.000 empty bottles and 500 labels, nearly a half-kilogram of corks and more than 2 liters of liquid oil. /Text/ /T.Q.T., of SAIGON GIAI PHONG/ /Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG in Vietnamese
18 Sep 84 p 4/ 9332

CSO: 4209/48

ECONOMIC PLANNING, TRADE AND FINANCE

EDITORIAL URGES CONTINUED REFORM OF PRIVATE INDUSTRY, TRADE

Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG in Vietnamese 18 Sep 84 pp 1, 4

/Editorial "Continuous Socialist Transformation of Private Industry and Trade Is Essential and Pressing"/

/Text Ever since the liberation of South Vietnam, our country has been unified and advancing to socialism: in the meanwhile, our city has been conducting the socialist economic revolution with its two aspects: socialist transformation coupled with socialist construction. We have carried on the socialist transformation in light of the overall party policy set forth by the Fourth National Party Congress and corroborated by the Fifth /National/ Party Congress. This policy consists of "firmly maintaining proletarian dictatorship, developing the laboring people's right to collective ownership and simultaneously conducting three revolutions...." Socialistically to transform private capitalist industry and trade means precisely to implement the theme of the revolution of production relationships in our city according to specific policies promulgated by our party and state. This course of action has won the sympathy of and response from the working class and laboring people and has been approved by all those who adopt socialism and condemn exploitation and injustice.

Owing to these factors, we have obtained some important results. The state has taken in hand the key economic sectors and important economic installations and has uniformly managed certain categories of goods essential to production and daily activities. The bourgeois compradores' economy has been eliminated and stubborn dishonest bourgeois traders punished. We have reformed an important section of private capitalist industry and trade, introduced a number of small owners and handicraftsmen into the collective business system and reorganized, reformed and employed a number of laboring small traders. Conditions have existed for the socialist economy to develop by one step with a tendency gradually to advance toward playing a predominant role in the national economy. The achievements of the production relationships revolution have begun to create conditions for the production forces to develop and for science and technology gradually and conspicuously to display their key role.

However, these achievements are merely initial ones. The socialist revolution's mission and the socioeconomic situation are still posing numerous problems requiring recognition, examination and solution.

Private industry and trade have been reformed and reorganized gradually but not yet properly and strictly and have afterward been managed rather loosely so that they are still badly affecting many aspects of the national economy, primarily production and social life. The distribution and circulation front is a converging point for the most acute contradictions between socialism and capitalism during the struggle between the two roads. On this front, the unorganized market including the illegal one which deals in commodities falling under the state's unified management is still too vast. Taking advantage of loopholes in our economic management system, dishonest bourgeois traders have illegally carried out speculative and hoarding activities, compete with the state commercial sector in buying and selling goods, bribed cadres and accumulated and funneled out state-owned goods, thus creating market price fluctuations to the detriment of the laboring people's livelihood. Most serious are the activities of the frontier smugglers who have been induced by profit to cause a "gold bleeding" to our country. They are precisely the enemy's allies in the manifold war of destruction waged against our country with Ho Chi Minh City as the key area. Despite some positive aspects, because of their very great number and their unfinished reform and reorganization, small traders have constantly acted as ramifications of capitalist commerce and have incessantly exerted a negative effect by unwittingly helping bourgeois traders carry out speculation, raise prices and cause phony price fluctuations in the market to the detriment of the interests of the laboring people including themselves.

Everyone knows that from 1976 to date, the working class and laboring people in our city have struggled without interruption to overcome difficulties to bring about a continuous average yearly increase of 17 percent in the output of industry, small industry and handicrafts. This is a noteworthy and heartening development rate on the industrial, small industry and handicraft production front. Despite this encouraging factor, public opinion has asked this question: How is it that in spite of the establishment of socialist production relationships and an increase in production, the people's living standard has gone down even when the state is trying to stabilize and improve the laboring people's life? Who has depreciated the actual salaries of cadres and manual and office workers?

Where is the principal cause of this actual economic situation to be found? It must be found nowhere else but in the awfully negative effects of the free market with its outmoded mechanism which is thoroughly inconsistent with the new production relationships. It must be found in the acts and tricks of speculating in goods, hoarding and accumulating them and siphoning out state-owned goods by all means and also in the market rigging activities aimed at creating fake price fluctuations. We must clearly see this deep cause in the activities of the dishonest bourgeois traders who smuggle goods across the frontier and whose crime is not restricted to the economic field only.

Socialism cannot develop the strength of the new production relationships at a time when private trade with its subtle tricks has grasped a large amount of goods and money and used it as an weapon to manipulate the national economy and oppose socialism. We can figure out what is bound to happen from the mere fact that private activities in the restaurant and beverage sector in our city alone have reaped about 5 billion dong each year. What kind of disturbances

will this amount of money in the private traders' hands cause on the distribution and circulation front and how many disruptions will it cause to the market pricing system?

In conjunction with still unreformed elements--the remnants of capitalist spontaneous development in industrial, small industry and handicraft production and even in the agricultural sector--, private trade with such a nature and scope of action is obviously a serious obstacle to production development, to the improvement of the people's living conditions and to the strengthening of socialist economy.

We neither deny nor conceal the remaining weaknesses of the young socialist commercial apparatus which are being gradually overcome and also the long-standing shortcomings of the excessively bureaucratic economic management mechanism which the Sixth Party Central Committee Plenum has recently pointed out and indicated ways to overcome. However, from a commonsense class viewpoint on the current struggle between the two roads, all those standing on the socialist front line can hardly consider this problem from another angle.

Owing to the Sixth Party Central Committee Resolution whose sound provisions on managerial apparatus improvement are exerting an increasingly deep effect on production installations, production will certainly be further developed very soon according to everyone's expectations. But the question is whether all of this amount of social products will fall into the hands of the state. And what else will the working class and laboring people receive from the result of this production development if in the future the free market will remain intact with its multitudinous negative aspects and with a private commercial force extremely skilled and tricky in struggling against the state economy?

Considering the actual economic situation in the past years and at the present time, asking such a question means giving an answer--one which confirms the urgent need to continue to reform private industry and trade better and more strictly. This task must be done to develop production, to stabilize and improve the living conditions, to enable the state to grasp commodities and currency and master the market and stabilize prices and also to prevent the unorganized market from robbing cadres and manual and office workers of their salaries and honestly earned income. This must be done to help maintain political security and social order and security and to eliminate a hotbed of criminal activities of the enemy in his plot to wage a manifold war of destruction in our city.

We have gone through nearly 10 years of the initial transitional stage. On the economic front, it is no longer possible to allow private industry and trade to continue to attack and ruin the socialist national economy, especially on the distribution and circulation front. When speaking of five economic components, we mean their existence in the production field but even in this field all the five economic components must carry out activities within the socialist unified orbit and must be closely controlled by the state. This topic must be viewed differently in the distribution and circulation field where bourgeois trade with its entirely negative nature no longer has a place within the national economy. Along with economic construction, our people are trying to build the foundations of a new culture and new socialist man whose primarily important characteristic

is the love for work and the hatred of exploitation. With its present nature and activities, the private industrial and commercial economy hampers efforts on the cultural and ideological front because it is deepening this social injustice: People who work hard receive little while parasites thrive and live in luxury. How can the new socialist man take shape and grow up easily if the social environment is not cleaned up for wholesomeness and if vicious habits such as parasitism, exploitation and earning a living by dishonest means are not severely condemned and thoroughly eliminated?

It is clearly essential to continue to transform private industry and trade along socialist lines. This is a necessity in our own country as well as in whatever socialist revolution during its initial stage. On the other hand, in view of the present socioeconomic situation in our country and especially in our city, this task has taken on a more urgent meaning.

The interests of socialism and the practical personal ones of the working class and laboring people require that everyone standing on the socialist front heightens his awareness and achieves a high degree of unanimity about the essential and urgent nature of a continuous socialist transformation of private capitalist industry and commerce. We will continue to perform this task according to the basic policy promulgated by the Party Central Committee, on the basis of practical experiences drawn from successes and failures, and with all the necessary creativeness in fully implementing various forms and measures and in formulating a suitable course of action. Everything must be done to achieve the highest effectiveness in pursuing the goal of serving production and the people's life and perfecting and consolidating the new socialist production relationships.

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AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT NEEDS IMPROVEMENT

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 4 Oct 84 p 2

[Article by Nguyen Le Trung, Comprehensive Department, State Planning Commission: "Centering on Agricultural Cooperative Management Improvement"]

[Text] Perfecting the primary economic relationships between the state and cooperatives through the payment and sale of agricultural products and supplying the material conditions for production are matters of great importance in the many aspects of improving agricultural cooperative management.

Agricultural Product Payment, Sale

Allowed to farm the land of the state, agricultural cooperatives are obligated to pay taxes and to sell increasingly greater amounts of agricultural products to the state. With a proper purchasing policy, the requirement for increasing the volume and rate of agricultural products collected annually must be closely connected with strengthening the incentive factors and methods of stimulating production development. This is a fact of agricultural management practice which our country and fraternal countries have confirmed as accurate. Nevertheless, we for many different reasons have been unable at times to achieve this requirement. In order to gradually overcome the weaknesses and to assist in establishing the production and business initiative of the cooperative, when calculating taxes and the specific purchase quotas at the present time, the following points must be given additional attention:

First of all, land may be considered as a foundation for establishing purchase quotas and accurate calculation is necessary. However, although land is the foremost factor of agriculture and farming, that land will not produce the desired volume of agricultural products if it lacks a sufficient "dose" for stimulating the active nature of the laborer. On the other hand, in order to well-exploit the land with the status of a natural force, the laborer must also be organized into a force at least equal to that natural force. In both cases, improving the income of the laborer occupies an important position, especially at the time when the "see-saw battle" between "eat directly" and "save for tomorrow" is still great. Therefore, besides state requirements which are the initial factor, it is necessary when defining purchase quotas to closely examine the degree of production initiative and to calculate the stabilization of crop and livestock yields, the volume of reserve agricultural products among the farmers and the habits and rational use objectives in order to issue consistent stipulations.

Secondly, while the social funds needed to pay for the requirements of those covered by the policy have not yet been established, the cooperative directly regulates the grain of these individuals in the annual distribution plan. Depending upon the conditions of each cooperative, the number of people covered by the policy differs and consequently, the percentage of regulation also is different. To partially create a definite equality between cooperatives with similar production conditions, it is necessary in the purchase quotas to calculate the "as if" portion as the obligation which the cooperative has achieved.

Thirdly, a basis for calculating purchase quotas is the land area and crop and livestock yields. However, under conditions of increasing yields, land is only one factor. It is necessary to differentiate between the objective and the subjective elements in the portion of income being increased per field area unit. Ordinarily, part of the increase is due to the subjective effort (in excess of the area or sub-area average level) and part is due to objective reasons, but if not concerning the fields, it should not be considered as an agricultural tax. If we consider there is a true contribution by society in the portion of increased income which the state must receive in order to pay for public requirements, a suitable collection form must be used. Within the background of gradually expanding forms of joint businesses and alliances between primary level units, that fact has great significance.

Supplying Material Conditions for Production

Aimed at gradually overcoming the situation of too many supply and purchasing organizations with many different conveyance and purchasing norms within one area for one type of agricultural product, and also aimed at strengthening the plan regulation role of the district, material supply conditions in accordance with two-way contracts must be unified in one cause and integrated into the unified economic and social plan of the district. On the basis of strengthening and reorganizing the specialized business corporations (materials, grain, export, etc.) at the district level, clearly determine the supply and purchasing function of each type of organization. In order to directly support production and because of production, the material conditions introduced to contracts are primarily production materials. Depending on the conditions of each area and each production form, it is possible to supplement part of the essential consumer goods such as grain for the areas specializing in industrial crops.

Relying on the economic and technical characteristics of each type of crop and animal and the requirements structure of each area and sub-area, determine the material and fertilizer structure for the cooperative beforehand to avoid an average or overflowing supply situation. In those areas where no percentage of self-sufficient goods or production has existed for a long time or where difficult production conditions still exist, can it be possible to provide part of the production materials and the essential consumer goods or to create the conditions and increase the capabilities for fulfilling state tax obligations? Closely connected with improvements in material and fertilizer supply, actual practice in many cooperatives demands recalculation of price levels and agricultural product purchasing exchange rates. While cooperatives have not yet

audited production costs, research to revise the purchase price system must be placed in close relationship with the agricultural tax policy. On the other hand, the credit policy must also be revised to assure that cooperatives meeting difficulty in the production area, newly formed economic zones and strategic agricultural product production areas may borrow capital at a favorable rate of interest. Improve the activity formula of the state bank in the local area consistent with the present financial activity conditions of the cooperative. At the same time, it is necessary to perfect the policy of investing in and supplementing the cadre ranks; especially strengthening the ranks of capable cadres for districts and primary level units through a management mechanism which harmoniously assures all interests, in order to direct the activities of these organizations toward a close connection with the final results in the production facility.

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AGRICULTURE

STUDIES BY AGRICULTURAL CENTER CONTRIBUTE TO HIGHER YIELDS

Hanoi LAO DONG in Vietnamese 27 Sep 84 p 4

[Article by Huu Tinh: "The Agricultural Technology Center In the Mekong Delta, the Flower of Vietnamese-Indian Friendship"]

[Text] The Mekong Delta Agricultural Technology Center specializes in doing research on rice and other grain crops of the fertile area in the southern region of the fatherland. Many people call this the "intellectual flower of agriculture." And what is even more wonderful, it is also the flower of Vietnamese-Indian friendship and cooperation.

The director of the center, Nguyen Van Luat, MS [Master of Science], said that the task of the center is to propagate and produce varieties of rice and other crops that can be rotated with the native rice varieties in order to supply these to the seed farms in the region. The center is also responsible for establishing regulations and technical standards concerning crop cultivation and for training agricultural technicians. This is a lot of work. Four out of 10 scientific research departments that do research on rice and other crops that can be rotated with rice have been established. These four departments study genetic selection, protection of the vegetation, farming techniques and crop allocations. The other six departments that will be established in turn will do research on processing, storage, agricultural climates, water conservancy, agricultural economics and so on. At present, the center is cooperating with 15 centers of the localities in the region in order to conduct research on rice varieties. During the initial stage, the center is giving special attention to conducting research on genetic transmission and selection. It is studying high-yield varieties of rice that can be planted. It is cooperating with the National Rice Institute in the Philippines in gathering and safeguarding the valuable varieties of rice in the localities and in selecting and adapting local high-yield, high-quality varieties of rice. The high-yield varieties of rice studied and selected by the center have been included in the main planting in the Mekong Delta. These varieties include Nong Nghiep 4B, Nong Nghiep 5B and Nong Nghiep 8A.

Based on the production realities, the Mekong Delta Agricultural Technology Center has established production regulations for rotating floating rice and jute (in the Thot Not area) and mung beans and sesame with the aim of increasing the number of crops per year and carrying on land reform. It has studied various types of fertilizer for use in the various delta areas. The above

areas have transplanted 350,000 hectares in the center's varieties. Of this, 250,000 hectares have been planted in Nong Nghiep 4B. As compared with the local varieties, the yield of this variety is 1-2 tons per hectare higher. In some areas, the yield has reached 8-10 tons per hectare with the average being 4-4.5 tons per hectare. Most is being grown in Hau Giang, Minh Hai and Kien Giang. On the other hand, the local varieties of rice yield only 1-2 tons per hectare. Because of growing the Nong Nghiep 4B variety, Hau Giang's products won a gold medal at the 1983 National Fair. In Hau Giang, this new variety has earned approximately 672 million dong (4.3 dong per kg) for the peasants. In the entire region, it has earned 1.6 billion dong. Since it cost 151 million dong to build the center, the profits earned are 10 times the investment cost. This has made the scientists very enthusiastic about their work.

Here, the spirit of friendship and mutual cooperation between Vietnam and India can be seen clearly. The Indian Government has provided research equipment, and Indian specialists have brought the knowledge and experiences of India's "green revolution" to help Vietnam. Many agricultural specialists from many countries around the world have visited the center and praised the center's contributions to agricultural production.

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CSO: 4209/23

AGRICULTURE

BRIEFS

STATE FARM PINEAPPLE CULTIVATION--Hanoi, VNA, 3 Nov--By now the Pham Van Hai state farm has planted 1,300 hectares of pineapple, treble the 1981 figure. The farm which employs around 1,200 workers has just harvested 5,300 tons of pineapple, and is preparing four million saplings for the coming dry season crop. In the past four years, the farm produced annually 2,600 tons of fresh pineapple and 4,800 tons of canned pineapple for export. The farm has also planted 100 hectares of sugarcane with an average yield of 25 tons per hectare. Last year, its sugar mill produced 79 tons of sugar. The farm is striving for 8,100 tons of pineapple and 1,000 tons of sugarcane under this year's plan. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1550 GMT 3 Nov 84 OW]

SON LA COTTON GROWING--Hanoi, VNA, 6 Nov--The mountainous province of Son La in the northwest of Vietnam have made nearly 4.4 million metres of cloth during the past three years, using home-grown cotton. By 1983, the province's cotton acreage had expanded to 2,838 hectares and yielded 1,164 tons of unginned cotton to weave more than 1.8 million metres of cloth, averaging 2.9 metres per head of population. As well as increasing its self supply in cotton, Son La has sold hundreds of tong of cotton to the government each year. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1446 GMT 6 Nov 84 OW]

CSO: 4200/140

HEAVY INDUSTRY AND CONSTRUCTION

BRIEFS

PHA LAI GENERATOR GROUP--Hanoi, VNA, 6 Nov--The construction of the generator group no. 2 of the Pha Lai thermo-electric power plant in Hai Mung Province northeast of Hanoi, was completed today. At 17 hours local time, the generator started operation and was connected to the national grid, one day ahead of schedule. This was the result of joint efforts by Vietnamese workers and Soviet experts in honour of the coming 67th anniversary of the October revolution. Construction of this second generator group had been speedier than that of the first one. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1520 GMT 6 Nov 84 OW]

CSO: 4200/140

TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

TRADERS' INORDINATE BEHAVIOR TOLERATED BY RAILROAD PERSONNEL

Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG in Vietnamese 18 Sep 84 p 1

/Article by Nguyen Van Ty, of 18th Ward, 11th Precinct, in "Saigon People's Forum": "Smuggling Along Railroads"/

/Text/ On 6 August, we took Da Nang Train No 3 to go from Nha Trang to Binh Trieu. Our tickets clearly mentioned car No 2 and seats No 2, 3, 4, 5 and so on but on boarding the train, we found that these seats had already been occupied by long-haul traders. We requested them to yield the seats to us but they just laughed mockingly and spoke defiantly. We invited a controller in to settle the dispute but he merely hummed and hawed and immediately walked away!

All the way from Nha Trang to Bien Hoa, these long-haul traders incessantly loaded and unloaded large quantities of black sesame, oil of turpentine, dried squids, grapes, etc. They shouted, jostled against other passengers and compelled the latter to raise their legs or stand up to enable them to thrust their merchandise under the seats. They either pulled up the legs of any passenger who reluctantly moved along or just squeezed in the goods as if the place were vacant. Some of them even put chickens and hogs on the seats. Nearby our seats, there were two hogs weighing over 80 kgs each so that the passengers had to put up with their grunts and wriggles and fetid droppings day and night!

The train guards said nothing about this revolting sight but in one and the same night we were requested to show our tickets as many as four times while the traders were not even bothered!

We and many other train passengers were highly indignant at this sight. We do know that because our country is still poor, transport means are still difficult and limited but we cannot accept that passenger trains are transformed into transport means for smugglers.

The traders' eccentric behavior on passenger trains is becoming a prevalent practice. We would suggest that the railroad sector closely coordinates with the public security and market control forces to deal firmly with freewheeling traders in order to better serve passengers.

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HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE

URGENCY OF FAMILY PLANNING MOVEMENT NOTED AT CONFERENCE

Hanoi SUC KHOE in Vietnamese 20 Sep 84 p 7

[Article by P. V. (reporter): "Conference of the Population and Family Planning Committee, Northern Provinces"]

[Text] Recently, in cooperation with the Ministry of Public Health, the National Population and Family Planning Committee organized a symposium on propaganda and training, population and family planning. The symposium, held in Hanoi, was attended by almost 100 delegates from the Department of Propaganda and Training of the Central Committee, the Department of Science and Education of the Central Committee, the State Planning Commission, the Vietnam Confederation of Trade Unions, the Vietnam Women's Union and the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union and from the ministries, committees, sectors and population and family planning committees of the northern provinces and cities.

At the symposium, Nguyen Long Thanh, the vice minister of public health and the secretary-general of the National Population and Family Planning Committee delivered a summary report on the population and family planning situation in Vietnam during the past period and on the tasks and plans in the coming period (1984-1985). He also reported on the third draft on a number of policies to stimulate the implementation of the family planning activities. The symposium also listened to several other reports presented by the Vietnam Women's Union, the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union, the Institute for the Protection of Mothers and Infants, the Vietnam Confederation of Trade Unions and the Hanoi, Haiphong, Thai Binh, Ha Bac and Ha Nam Ninh population and family planning committees.

One of the "hot" topics in the world today is the very rapid increase in the size of the population, which is referred to as the "population explosion." In 1930, the population of the world was only 2 billion. By 1960 the population had increased to 3 billion and as of 1 July 1980, the world population stood at 4,714,000,000. Concerning this very rapid increase in the population of the world, Vietnam is one of the countries whose population is growing very rapidly. In 1936, the population of Vietnam was only 18,970,000. In 1945, it was 23 million. And by 1983 it had reached 57,373,000. Thus, the population has increased by almost 1.3 million people a year. Our country is now the 13th largest country in the world in terms of population. At the same time, we are a poor country. Our economy is growing slowly, there is no balance and the country is experiencing many problems on many fronts.

Thus, since 1963, the party and state have given attention to family planning and carried on family planning movements, with the premier serving as the committee chairman. During the past 20 years, even though we have encountered many difficulties and been engaged in major undertakings such as liberating the south, reunifying the country and eliminating the bandits, the family planning movements have scored and are scoring specific victories. But along with the progressive models, a rather large number of localities, provinces, cities, wards, districts, agencies and enterprises still do not realize the importance of this or see their responsibilities regarding the family planning movement. The directives and the resolutions of the fourth and fifth party congresses stated that the population growth rate must quickly be reduced to a rational level and efforts must be made to lower the country's average population growth rate to 1.7 percent by 1985. Lowering the population growth rate is urgent. And it is becoming a matter of law. Those agencies, mass organizations and enterprises that carry on the family planning movement well will be rewarded; those that do not will be fined in accord with the draft (policies to stimulate carrying on family planning activities will be promulgated in the near future). To carry on the family planning movement, the ministries, committees, sectors, party organizations, agencies, mass organizations, enterprises, work sites, state farms, state forests and schools must take responsibility, promote a propaganda and training movement and enable each person to understand the benefits of the movement. Individuals must help carry on the family planning movement well by having few children.

Each couple should have only two children, with the second child born at least 5 years after the first. Couples should not have a third child, and women should not have children before the age of 22. If the family planning movement can be carried out well, the standard of living will gradually be solidified and improved, the health of women and family well-being will be maintained, culture and society will develop and women will really achieve equal rights and equality so that they can participate in all social activities just as in their educational and work spheres.

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